

WARREN
MAGAZINE



EERIE
#84

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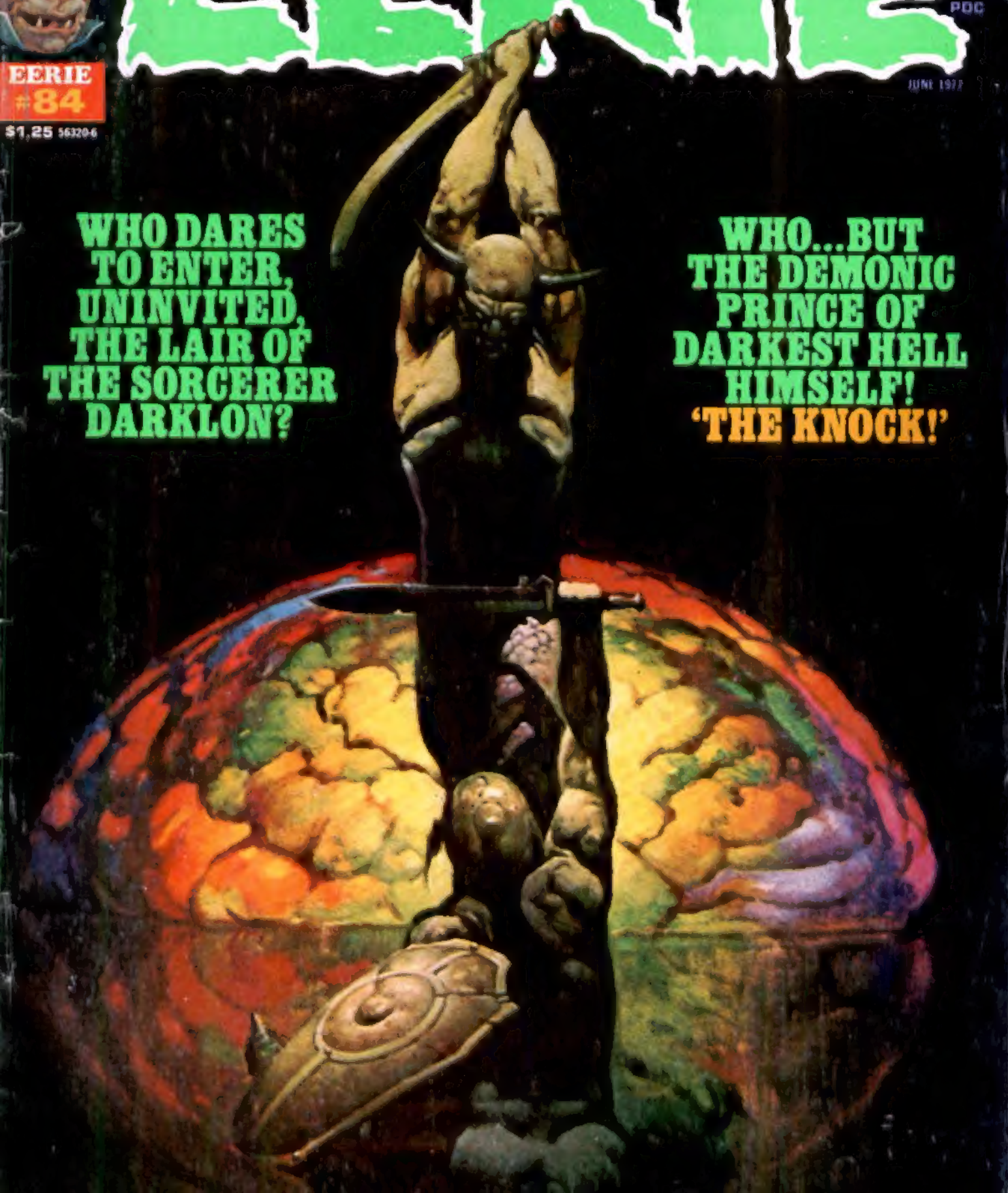
EERIE

PDC

JUNE 1977

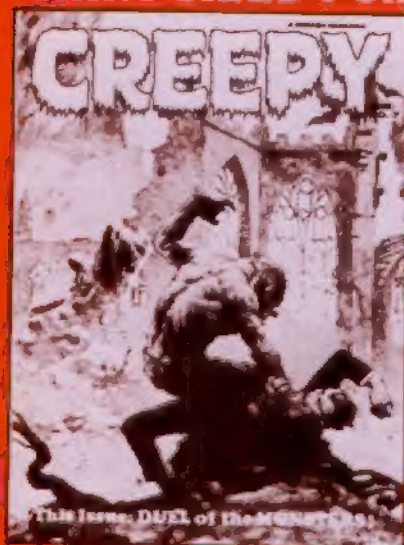
WHO DARES
TO ENTER,
UNINVITED,
THE LAIR OF
THE SORCERER
DARKLON?

WHO...BUT
THE DEMONIC
PRINCE OF
DARKEST HELL
HIMSELF!
'THE KNOCK!'



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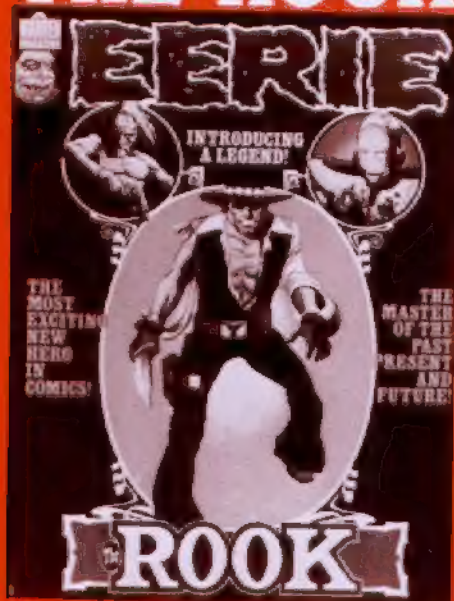
6 FOOT FULL COLOR

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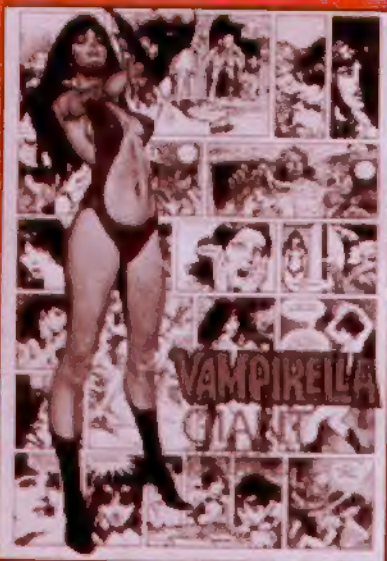
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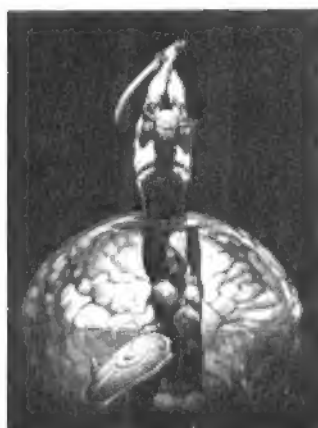
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EERIE

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JUNE 1977

4 DEAR COUSIN EERIE Chip Jeter writes: "Hearty congratulations on the Rook! I haven't seen a character so original..." His letter reflects the opinion of most of our readers towards the DuBay/Bermejo hero.

5 BRANCATELLI: COMIC BOOKS Brancatelli siding with comic publishers? "... we need The Code ..." says J.B. or else those hacks in the industry will glut the market with senseless gore, sex & violence! True?

6 The ROOK™
YESTERDAY, THE FINAL DAY
Wounded by the gunfighter/Alamo deserter/sheriff Gat Hawkin, the Rook's life ebbs away. With blazing 45's and a 30 gallon hat comes a savior. So what if he's made of tin!

29 HARD JOHN: BRASS MONKEY
Hard John was certain that the entire world was trying to kill him. The only ones who could be trusted were the General and Tarara. With friends like them, who needed enemies?

39 YELLOW BRICK RHODE
This was a cinch. All Godeye had to do was rescue the Princess of Rhode from atop a spinning sphere. He had a rope and his wits which was enough, if it wasn't for ... Thud!

47 DARKLON: SHADOW/KNOCK
The shadow, so dark, so deep, so lifeless. He had destroyed the one he loved. Made her a hollow thing. Void of life. A visible vacuum. But worst of all, he upset the Mystic Scheme!

54 ANNUAL WARREN AWARDS
The time of year has arrived when Warren publishing is able to honor those artists and writers who have exhibited excellence. Special is the new Renaissance Man Award.

CONCERNING OUR MAIL ORDER ADVERTISEMENTS: Warren Publishing guarantees our merchandise will be replaced if not received in satisfactory condition. Should you need to write us concerning an order, whether it be from our address or a Post Office Box address, send your letter to: E.C. Ives, Customer Service Dept., Warren Publishing Co., 145 E. 32nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10016.

Dear Cousin Eerie...

I've been reading EERIE for two years and I never wrote before. But EERIE #82 was good enough to cause me to comment!

Your new hero, The Rook, is really sharp. I can see with the first episode that the series has tremendous potential. I also hope it stays in the hands of **Bill DuBay** and **Luis Bermejo**... a great team.

The story sort of takes me back to when I was a rug-rat watching "Time Tunnel" on the tube!

VIC CARPENTER
USAF Academy, Colo.

The cover of #82 was only fair. I'd rather have seen a painting by **Ken Kelly** or **San-Julian**.

"Scallywag" was terrific. I'd like to see more of him. "Pea Green Boat" was better than last issue. You've finally got Green and Plusenkat thinking... not just reacting! "Tombspawn" was great... as usual... but still too short. Longer "Tombspawn" tales, please!

The Rook needs more time to develop but that character has tremendous potential. Give him lots of time!

MIKE LAMBERT
Longstreet, La.

EERIE #82 was a fine issue. I enjoyed The Rook very much and I think it will make a great new series.

I wonder if you can make the front cover of EERIE #82 into a poster.

I am a great EERIE fan and am looking forward to more Rook stories.

PAUL GOMPARTZ
Springfield Gardens, N.Y.

The cover of EERIE #82 is a poster, Paul. See the inside front cover of this magazine.

Previously, "Tombspawn" had been my favorite EERIE series and "The Game Is Afoot" in EERIE #82 was the best that it has yet produced!

"Scallywag" and "The Pea Green Boat" were also up to my high expectations!

But the real winner of the issue (and my new series favorite) was The Rook.

The things I enjoyed so much in "Tombspawn"... its originality... has been expanded in this promising new adventure series! I really expect the unexpected from The Rook!

ALEX RUDNOV
New York, New York

The Rook looks as if it will be an entertaining series, but it got off to an unfortunate start with "The Man Whom Time Forgot," in that it was another perpetuation of a racist view of history.

I have no doubt that this was unintentional, in view of Warren's past performance, but simply reflected a lack of research.

A large number of those who died defending the Alamo were of Spanish descent. Texas was a territory of Mexico, which was a colony of Spain. Thus those in The Alamo, regardless of their national origins, were rebels. The battle at The Alamo was not a racial or nationalistic matter.

Indeed, there is a monument in Mexico to those of Irish descent from San Patricio County who fought on the side of Mexico-Spain.

PATRICK N. COSGROVE
San Antonio, Tex.

Even though different from what I expected, EERIE #82 was a terrific issue.

The Rook looks to be a great addition to the EERIE Superstar roster... especially if he appears in situations appropriate to a horror/fantasy magazine.

STEPHEN PIROS
Edison, N.J.

I haven't seen a character as original as The Rook or a storyline with so many possibilities in a long, long time.

Bill DuBay and **Luis Bermejo** have got what it takes to create a truly excellent series.

The cover caught the mood of the series' perfectly. It really shone!

I hope I'll be seeing more

CHIP JETER III
Raleigh, N.C.

I have been reading EERIE since #50, and I've seen a lot of heroes come and go. Dax, Hunter, Spook, the Butcher, Child, Coffin, Exterminator... the list is seemingly endless.

It looks like your hero, The Rook, will fit right in with these other adventure-horror type heroes... and maybe even go them one better.

To make it short, I like The Rook, the story and the art. Keep this hero around for a while, okay?

DAVID R. DALTON
Fort Sill, Okla.

DEAR COUSIN EERIE

c/o Warren Publishing
145 E. 32nd Street
New York, N.Y. 10016

The ROOK™ CONTEST



Because of excited reader response to **The Rook** (witness the letters above), Warren Publishing invites

you to enter a contest. **Rook** is a modern man in the old west, a time traveler, robot master... gadget-

eer. He is constantly in need of new machines... inevitably faces new foes. Now you can create a...

...ROBOT ...VILLAIN ...GADGET

Rook is a master at creating robots. His mechanical marvels could not be constructed by any other living man. And now he has access to secrets of ancient beings from outer space! Keeping in mind **The Rook's** special talents and incredible resources, create the kind of robot he would be proud of. No design is impossible for **The Rook**!

Rook, the master Time Traveler, as he "castles" through the ages, will meet many foes who wish to destroy him. Create a great villain to oppose **The Rook**. Describe the foe's physical appearance, abilities, characteristics, history. Man, monster, animal, machine, what-have you? Create a terrifying villain to fight **The Rook**!

The Rook is the finest gadgeteer in the modern world. His greatest invention, his Time Castler, took him back to the Old West. But the inventive **Rook** will use other gadgets and creations to get him into and out of more harrowing adventures. Invent one for him. Describe it. Tell what it does, how it works, how **Rook** will use it!

PRIZES

There are 3 separate contests... so you have three times the chance to win. There will be only one winner chosen in each category. If you win:

- Your design will be published in EERIE #87 along with your name and picture!
- You will receive a 3-year subscription to EERIE Magazine!
- If your design is actually used in **The Rook** series, Warren Publishing Company will award you a prize-winning fee of \$100.00!

WHAT TO DO: You may enter all three contests, but you can enter each contest only once. Your design may take any form, from a written manuscript - to an illustration - to a 3-dimensional construction... (or you may combine all three). The form your entry takes should be limited only by consideration of what the mail can safely handle. Warren Publishing Company employees and/or their immediate families are not eligible. All entries become the property of Warren Publishing Company and none will be returned. The Contest will be judged by the Warren Publishing staff and all decisions are final.

WHEN TO DO IT: All entries must be received by 5 P.M., June 19, 1977. Winners will be notified by mail on or before July 15, 1977.

HOW TO DO IT: Type or print clearly on each entry the name of the contest for which the entry was designed (Villain, Robot, Gadget). Be sure to attach your name, age, address and telephone number to each separate entry. Package your entry securely and mail it to:

ROOK CONTEST

WARREN PUBLISHING COMPANY 145 East 32nd Street New York, New York 10016

THE COMIC BOOKS

By Joe Brancatelli

The powers that be will undoubtedly deem it necessary to revoke my knee-jerk-liberal credentials and my reputation as a stouthearted defender of absolute press freedom will certainly take a monumental pasting, but I think we still need the Comics Code.

Now I admit I've always believed The Code should be saved simply because almost everyone else in the comics cosmos was lobbying for its destruction—my standing as a champion of the lost cause has never been challenged—but it was a television critic of all people who recently made the case for the organization's continued existence.

The critic, Michael J. Arlen of *The New Yorker* magazine, wasn't even talking about The Code or comic books at the time, either. That's what made his argument so persuasive and frightening.

In his column on 1976's new network television shows, Arlen dismissed the continued emphasis on violent programming and the rising fear among adults that wanton gore was bad for their children. "Even the supposedly evil, grown-up programs such as *Baretta* are evil only in the eyes of the parental beholder, who worries that the young will be made either sick or criminal by watching them," Arlen mused. Then, probably without a moment of conscious thought, Arlen concluded that: "The young themselves appear to cheerfully wade right through (the violent shows), accepting ambulances, police sirens and homicidal maniacs for the comic-book items they are."

Holy preconceived notions, as the television Robin of a decade ago might have said! There it was, buried on page 153 of the austere *New Yorker*, right alongside the advertisement for the American Express Card. "Ambulances, police sirens and homicidal maniacs," Arlen believes, "are comic-book items."

Before you hastily scratch out a nasty missive to *New Yorker* editor William Shawn in protest of this patently unfair characterization of comic-book content, let me warn you that Michael J. Arlen's beliefs are not really unique. Almost every educated person I've ever met feels comic books are still the native stamping ground of the excessive bloodletting which forced the establishment of the Code in the first place. The only thing unique about Arlen's view is that it saw print recently, that's all.

For myself, I think Arlen is about 25 years behind the times. Back in the fifties, before television, he was probably right, as was Dr. Fredric Wertham: comic books did traffic in senseless gore and violence, and while motion pictures undoubtedly invented the genre, comics were the first place children were exposed to it then. In today's world, however, the pervasive medium of television is the first place children are exposed to excessive violence. Chances are the reverse of Arlen's image is true today; when the children of the 1970s see "ambulances, police sirens and homicidal maniacs" in comic books, they have already accepted them as "television items."

But whether Arlen is behind the times—or whether media violence is harmful to children—isn't the main issue here. That Arlen believes comic books are still the well . . . creators . . . of youth-oriented violence is the troubling thing. Even though it has been two decades since Dr. Wertham's *Seduction of the Innocent* brought comic-book violence to the public eye and even though The Code has largely sanitized comics since its 1954 inception, people—educated, influential people such as Arlen—still view the medium as the breeding ground of gore.

No one, it seems, has forgotten. Comics, it appears, are still automatically classified as trashy, valueless purveyors of everything that is repulsive about humanity. Adults of letters may have progressed enough intellectually to accept comics as a valid form of "art" and sociological expression, but emotionally they continue to categorize every television murder and every motion-picture torture scene as something that developed full-blown from the "funny pages."

All of which means that the comic-book industry, like it or not, is still suffering in a public-relations purgatory for its past sins. It still needs The Code, if not for actual censoring of objectionable material, at least for public-relations purposes.* Unlike the fifties, when newspapers and magazines routinely condemned comics, today's loathing of comic books is much more subtle, much more often the product of the subconscious. The Code, through that pretentious little white seal, apparently is still of service as a symbol of the comics' rehabilitated content and a cheap substitute for informed parental guidance of a child's reading matter. In other words, it still serves to make wary parents "feel good" when they shove the latest issue of *Superman* or *Howard The Duck* into their children's hands.

This is not to say that The Code was ever, or is now, the best solution to comic books' persistent image and content problem—and it is obvious that The Code hasn't done much of a public-relations job, either. Back in the fifties, when Dr. Wertham called comic publishers on the carpet for their excesses, The Code was an hysterical, off-the-cuff, self-imposed response aimed at forestalling legally-established censorship. It was ill-considered then and it is ill-considered now.

It goes without saying that DC's Jack Leibowitz and Marvel's Martin Goodman and Archie's John Goldwater—the reigning publishers of the time—should have come up with a better, more workable and more manageable system than The Code. They should have established an organization predicated on the notion of promulgating quality rather than the notion of prohibiting excess. But they didn't. Nor did they establish an organization that could effectively educate consumers about comics' desirable aspects.

It's just that scrapping The Code now would unleash a new round of gore for sales' sake from history-ignorant publishers who are more desperate for profits now than they ever were in the 1950s. Scrapping The Code now would expose us to the warped excesses of today's comic creators who, almost without exception, are less talented and less creative and surely less responsible than the industry's artisans of the 1950s. Charles Biro and Jerry Iger and Bill Gaines and Al Feldstein, talented and brilliant men, were all caught up in the profits crush of the 1950s. They all produced gory, excessively violent work unworthy of their ability in attempts to sell their product. If these men could do it, I shiver perceptibly when I think of the unconscionable excesses today's less talented hacks could foist off on us in the name of a Code-free comic book.

*The Code, in fact, has abandoned most of its censorship power in recent years and concentrated instead on public-relations projects. While it revised more than 50 per cent of the 1,881 comics it reviewed in 1955, its first full year of operation, it changed only 5 per cent of the 1,551 books checked in 1975 and only 9 per cent of the 1,401 books considered in 1976.



YESTERDAY, THE FINAL DAY

WITH THE AID OF TECHNOLOGY, AND THE MAGIC OF SCIENCE, RESTIN DANE'S DREAM WAS *REALIZED*. AND HIS FIRST STOP...HIS FIRST TRIP INTO *HISTORY*, LED HIM TO THE COTTONWOOD...*EL ALAMO* IN SEARCH OF AN ANCESTOR THERE WHO HAD GIVEN HIS LIFE!



WITH MODERN *WEAPONRY*, HE HAD HOPED TO ALTER THE TIDE OF THAT AWESOME MASSACRE. HE SUCCEEDED ONLY IN PROVING THAT HISTORY CANNOT BE *CHANGED*!



AND YET, IF NOT CHANGED, HISTORY HAD AT LEAST BEEN *MODIFIED*. FOR HAD RESTIN DANE NOT TRAVELLED INTO THE PAST, ONE SMALL BOY MIGHT NEVER HAVE LIVED TO BECOME ONE OF THE *TWO* SURVIVORS OF THE TEXICAN SLAUGHTER.

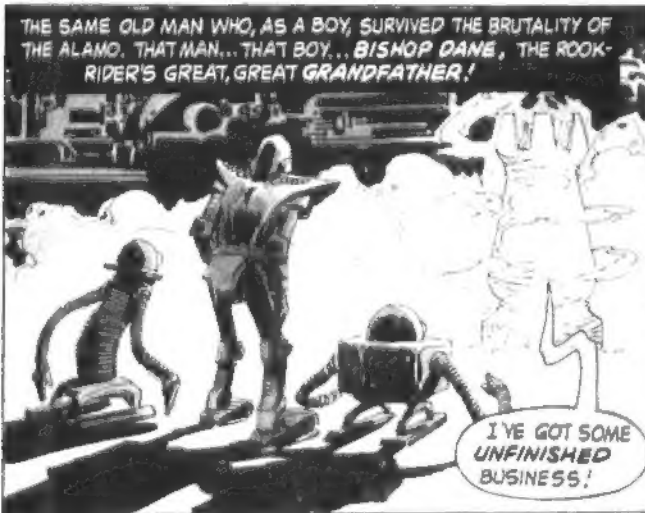
ONE BRAVE *BOY*...AND ONE COWARDLY *MAN*...WHO, QUITE BY ACCIDENT, FOUND HIMSELF TRAVELLING THROUGH *TIME*, ATTACHED TO THE EXTERIOR OF RESTIN DANE'S *TIME CASTLE*!



THE MAN...*GAT HAWKIN*! THE POSSESSOR OF A QUICK BUT LARCENOUS BRAIN, *INTELLIGENT* ENOUGH TO COMPREHEND THE CAPABILITIES OF A MACHINE ABLE TO SPAN CENTURIES. *THIEVISH* ENOUGH TO WANT THAT MACHINE FOR HIS VERY OWN, AND BRUTAL ENOUGH TO STOP AT NOTHING TO *ACQUIRE* IT!



RESTIN DANE. HIS STORY... *HISTORY* BEGINS *HERE!* SCANT SECONDS... ONE HUNDRED YEARS... AFTER HE HAS SAVED AN OLD MAN FROM THE THUNDERING GUNS OF GAT HAWKIN'!

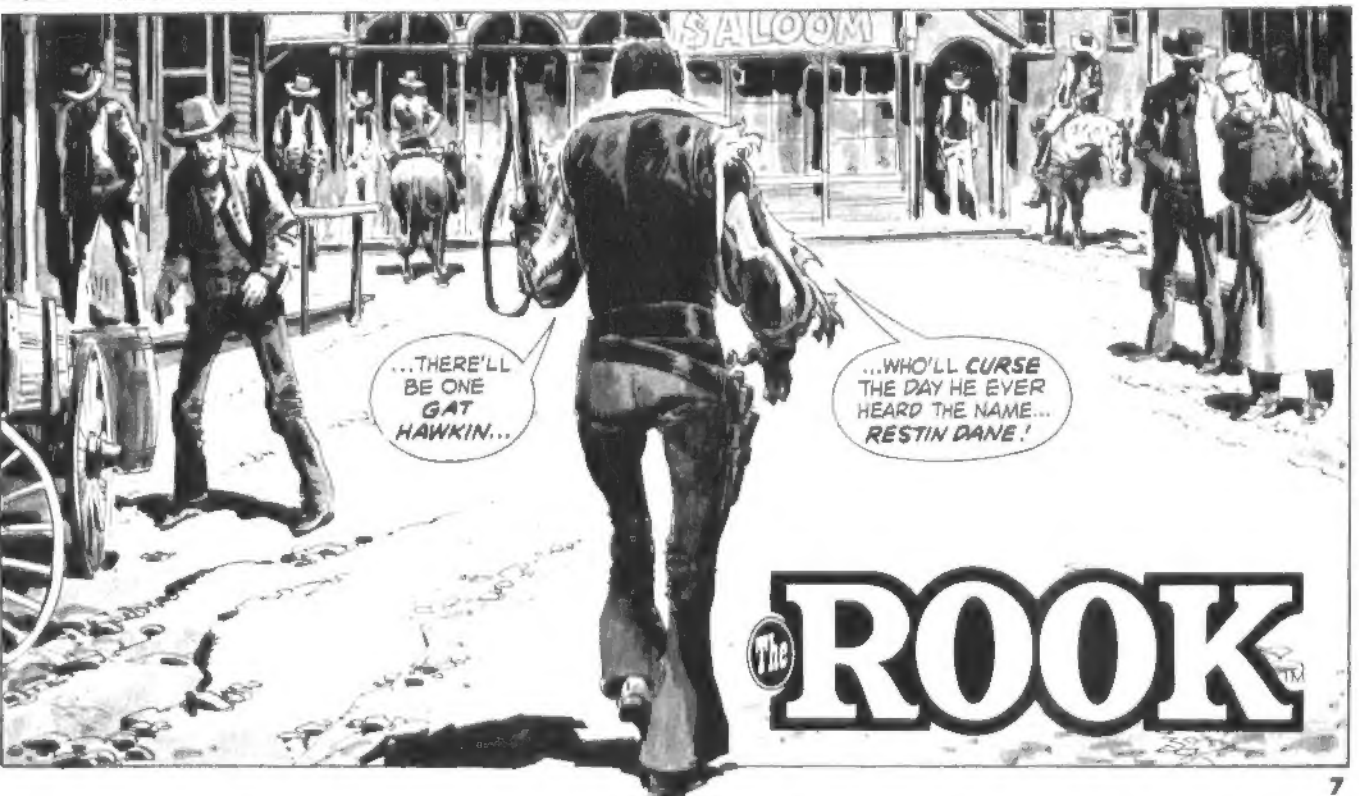


THE SAME OLD MAN WHO, AS A BOY, SURVIVED THE BRUTALITY OF THE ALAMO. THAT MAN... THAT BOY... *BISHOP DANE*, THE ROOK-RIDER'S GREAT, GREAT GRANDFATHER!

I'VE GOT SOME UNFINISHED BUSINESS!



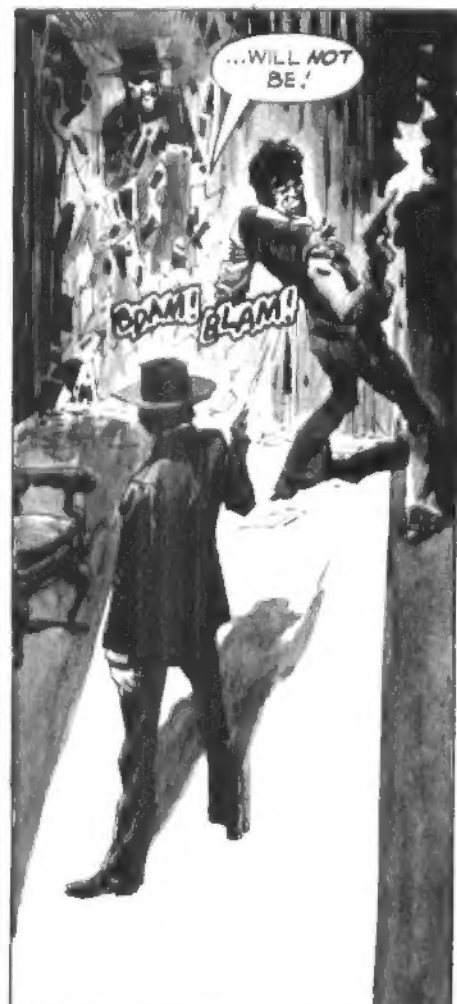
AND BY THE TIME I'M THROUGH...



...THERE'LL BE ONE GAT HAWKIN...

...WHO'LL CURSE THE DAY HE EVER HEARD THE NAME... RESTIN DANE!

The ROOK



GJOR-EE, SHERIFF!
THAT WAS SOME
FINE TRICK!

THET TOMFOOL
NEVER EVEN
KNOWED HE WAS
SHOOTIN' AT YOUR
MIRROR IMAGE!

JUST AS I WANTED, JOHN.
HE PROBABLY SUSPECTED A TRAP,
BUT WAS TOO DISTRACTED WITH THE
SAFETY OF THESE WOMEN TO PAY
MUCH ATTENTION TO WHAT HE
THOUGHT WAS ME!

I WANT TO THANK
YOU LADIES FOR
PLAYING YOUR
ROLES SO WELL!

YOU'VE GOT JUST
ONE MORE TASK BEFORE
YOU'RE FREE...! AND THAT,
MY DEARS, IS TO REMOVE
THIS DREADFUL BODY BEFORE
ITS SMELL RENDERS THIS
OFFICE UNINHABITABLE!

AFTER WHICH,
I'D ADVISE YOU
BOTH TO TAKE
THE MOST EX-
PEDIENT MODE
OF TRANSPORTATION
OUT OF
THIS TOWN!

I NEVER
WANT TO LAY
EYES ON
EITHER OF
YOU
AGAIN!

I NOW BID YOU ADIEU,
LADIES. MY DEPUTY AND I
HAVE BUSINESS ELSEWHERE.
IT SEEMS WE'VE JUST IN-
HERITED A MAGNIFICENT
TIME TRAVEL DEVICE! AND WE
MUST SECURE IT BEFORE IT
FALLS INTO VILLAINOUS
HANDS! HA! HA! HA! HA!

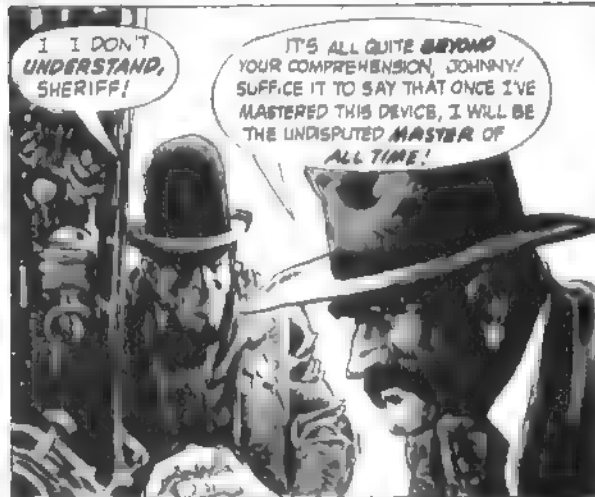
JAN! T-T-HIS
ROOK MAN IS
STILL BREATHING!

OH, GOD, KATE!
WHAT ARE WE
GONNA DO?

THE ONLY THING WE CAN
DO! GET HIM TO SAFETY BEFORE
THAT MURDERIN' SHERIFF FINDS
OUT AND FINISHES WHAT HE
STARTED!

BUT WHERE, KATE?
WHERE? NO PLACE
IN THIS TOWN IS SAFE
FROM GAT HAWKIN!

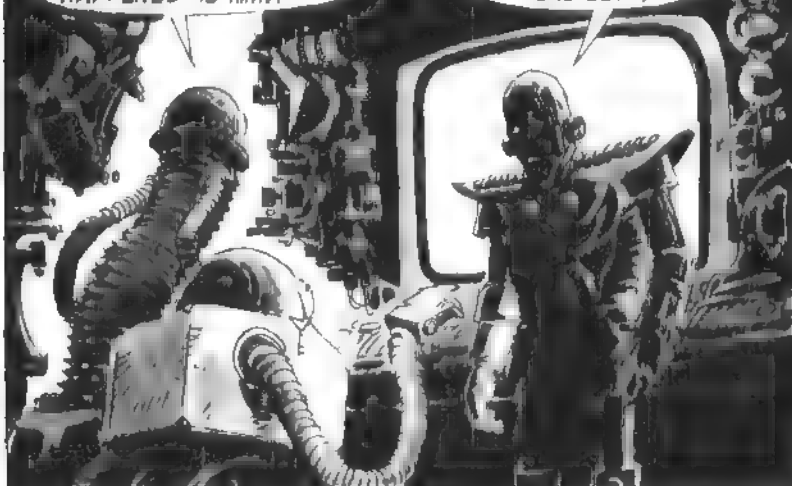
THERE'S ONE PLACE
EVEN HE WOULDN'T DARE
TO GO! THAT ABANDONED MINE
OUTSIDE TOWN! THE DEVIL'S
SHAFT! THAT'S WHERE
WE'LL TAKE HIM!



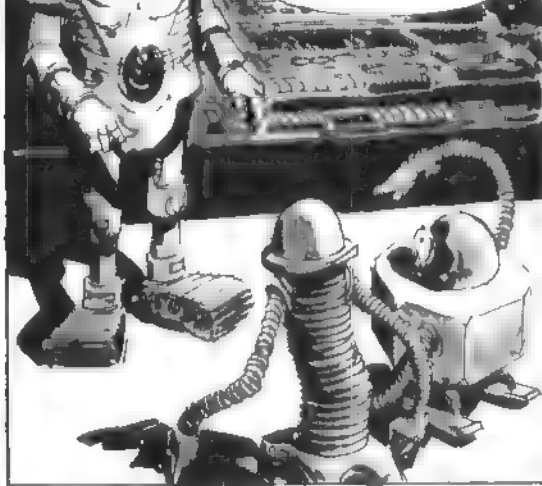
MEANWHILE...MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED YEARS LATER...IN AN ISOLATED
FORTRESS SOMEWHERE IN THE ARIZONA DESERT.

M-MR. MANNERS...! MASTER DANE'S BEEN GONE TWO FULL WEEKS! Y-YOU DON'T THINK SOMETHING COULD HAVE HAPPENED TO HIM!?

THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN KNOW FOR SURE, NUTS! NOT UNLESS WE RECALL THE TIME CASTLE.!



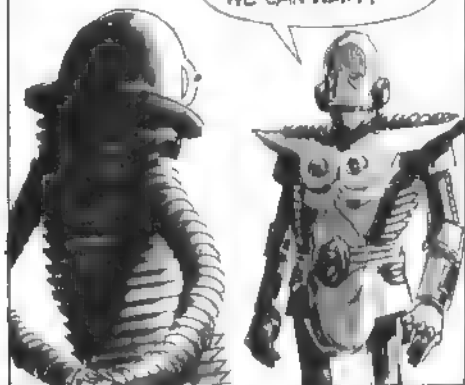
BUT...IF WE DID THAT...AND THE MASTER WAS NOWHERE NEAR THE TIME MACHINE...WE MIGHT IRREVOCABLY IMPRISON HIM IN THE PAST!



ISN'T THERE SOMETHING WE CAN DO, MR. MANNERS?

WE CAN DO AS WE'VE BEEN INSTRUCTED, BOLTS!

WE CAN LOOK AFTER MASTER DANE'S GRANDFATHER...AND WE CAN WAIT!



TIN MAN!

GET IN HERE...IT'S TIME WE TALKED!

AND I ASSURE YOU...THE FIRST PART OF THOSE INSTRUCTIONS IS INFINITELY MORE DIFFICULT THAN THE LATTER!



KATE!
KATE! COME QUICK! I...I THINK HE'S COMING 'ROUND!



W-WHERE AM...I?

EASY, MR DANE...! YOU'RE SAFE!

YOU'RE IN AN UNDERGROUND CHAMBER...IN THE BOWELS OF AN ABANDONED MINE SHAFT!



AS I UNDERSTAND T...YOU'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE!

I...I'M NOT QUITE SURE EXACTLY WHAT THIS PLACE IS! TH-THAT FACE ON THE DOOR...THE GUARDIAN...TRIED TO EXPLAIN IT...

...SOMETHING ABOUT THE PAST AND THE FUTURE...AND...ALIEN VISITORS FROM ANOTHER WORLD!

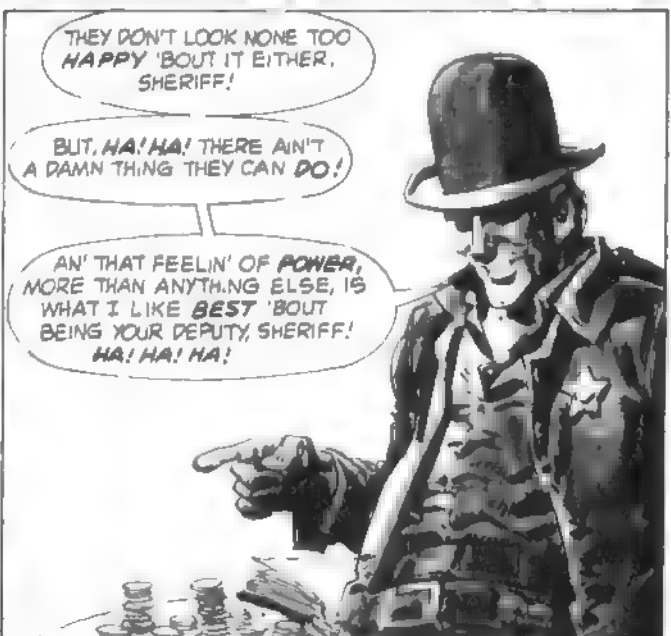
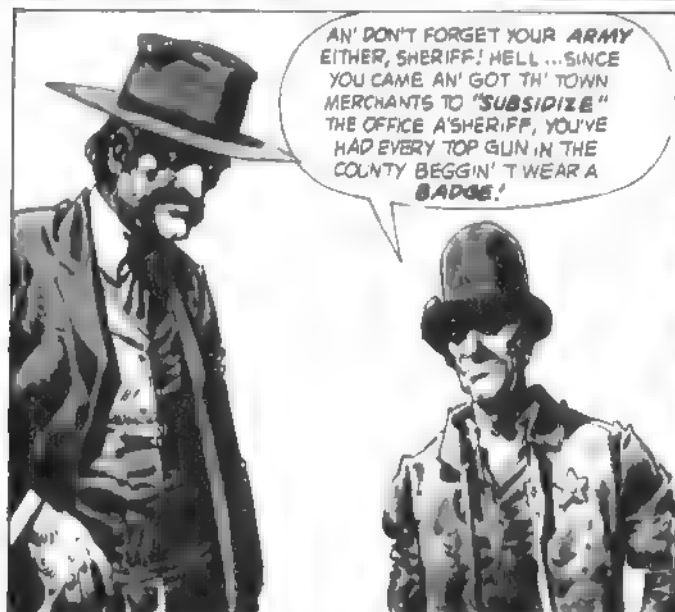
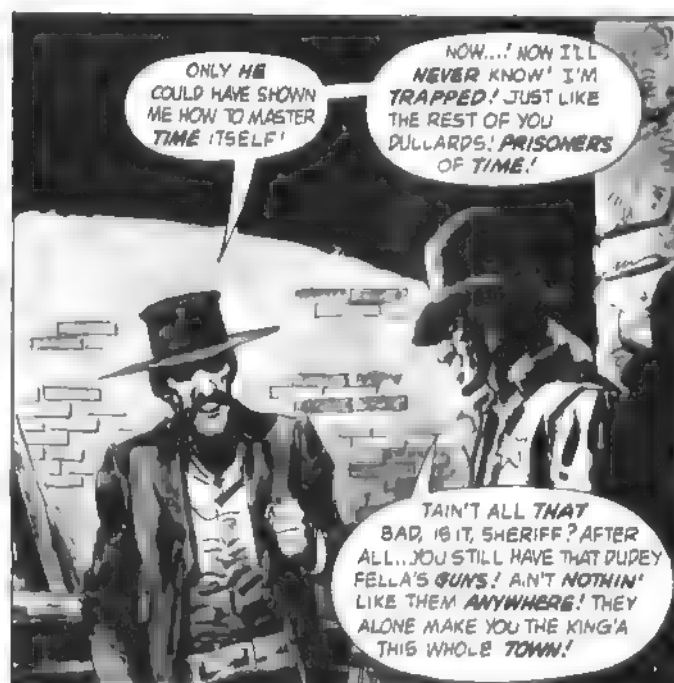


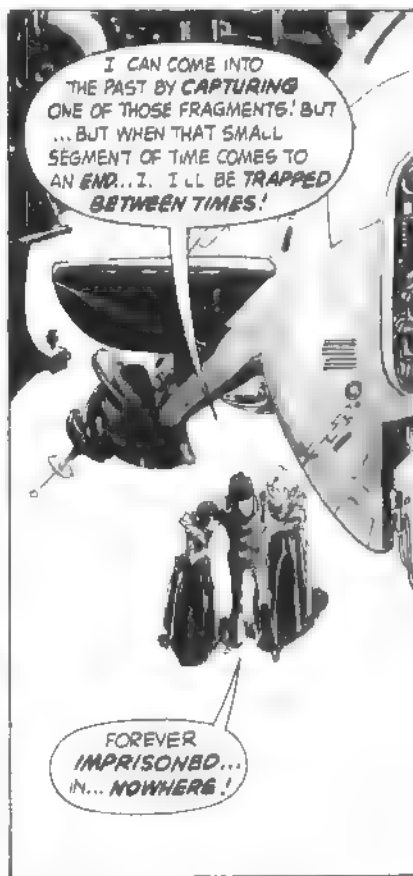
OH...OH, I'M SO SORRY, MR DANE. IT'S ALL SO CONFUSING!

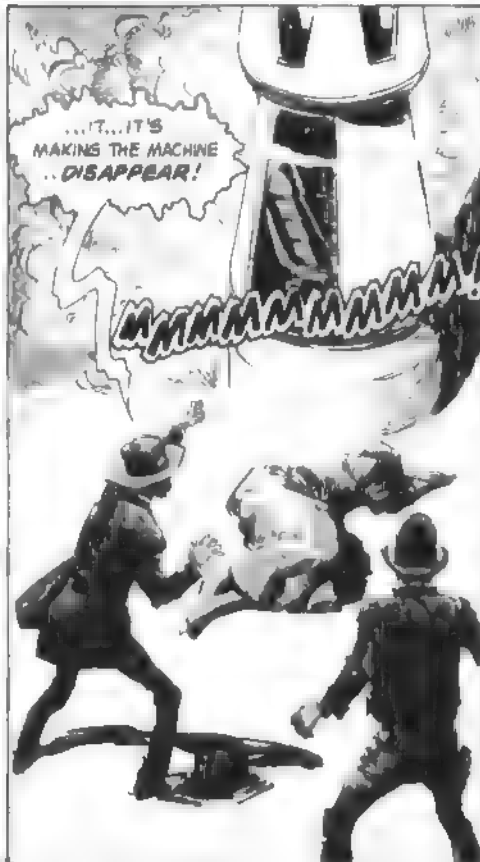
BUT FOR NOW...SLEEP...! JUST SLEEP...AND GET BETTER!

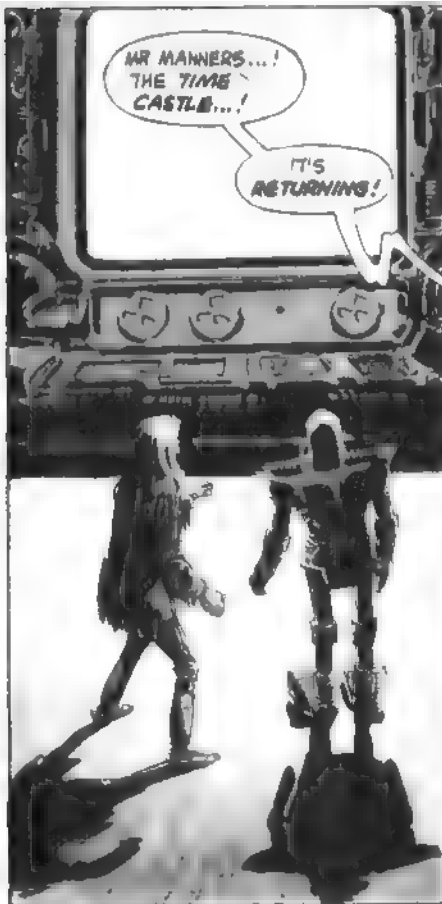
WHEN.. WHEN YOU'RE WELL...MAYBE YOU CAN EXPLAIN!











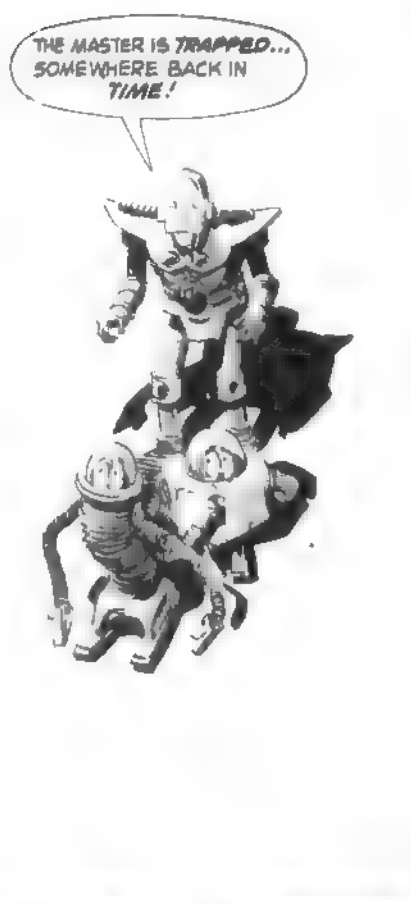
MR MANNERS...!
THE TIME
CASTLE...!

IT'S
RETURNING!



BUT LORD... 'OH
LORD, MR MANNERS ...!

IT'S
EMPTY!



THE MASTER IS TRAPPED...
SOMEWHERE BACK IN
TIME!



TRAPPED AND
MAYBE DYIN',
TIN MAN!

THIS MACHINE'S
SPLATTERED
WITH FRESH
BLOOD!



AND IF GAT
HAWKIN HAS A HOLD
A'HIM, YOU CAN BET YOUR
TIN BRAIN THIS BLOOD IS
THAT OF WESTIN DAVE!

OH, MR
MANNERS ...!
WHAT'LL WE DO?



AS I SEE IT, THERE'S
ONLY ONE THING WE CAN
DO...! AND I'M LEAVIN'
RIGHT NOW!

BUT SIR...! YOU...
YOU'RE BARELY OUT OF
A SICK BED YOUR-
SELF!



'TIN MAN... THAT BOY SAVED MY
LIFE TWICE NOW! I OWE HIM.

NO ONE'S GONNA STOP ME
FROM HELPIN' HIM NOW! NOT EVEN
YOU!

EITHER
YOU'RE WITH
ME.. OR I
GO ALONE!



JANUARY...! SHE...
SHE'S BEEN GONE TOO
LONG, MR. DANE!

SOMETHING
MUST HAVE HAPPENED
TO HER!

I...I SHOULD
NEVER HAVE SENT
HER... ALONE!

DAMN! DAMN!
WHY DIDN'T I GO?



YOU CAN'T BLAME
YOURSELF! YOU...YOU'RE
STILL TOO WEAK!

WEAK OR NOT...I'VE
GOT TO GET TO THAT MACHINE!
IF I DON'T, MY DEATH'S AS
CERTAIN AS PUTTING A GUN
TO MY OWN TEMPLE!

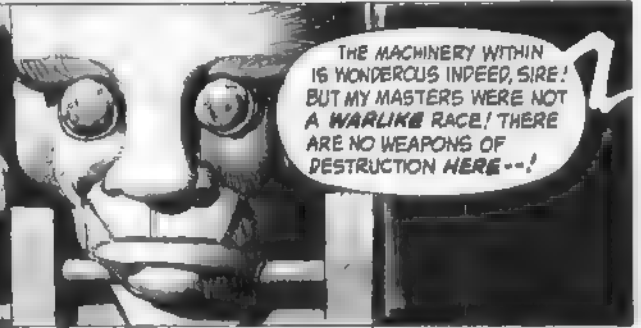


AND YET...IF GAT
HAWKIN HAS MY MACHINE,
HOW WILL I GET TO HIM? HE
HAS MY CHESSMASTER AND MY
AUTOMAG! WHAT CAN I USE AGAINST
HIM? THERE MUST BE SOME-
THING IN THIS GALLERY!

T-THE ROBOT...!
OF COURSE!



PALLAS! I MUST
KNOW...! YOUR MASTERS...
THE ALIENS WHO BUILT
THIS CAVERN...! THEY
MUST HAVE LEFT SOME-
THING BEHIND!



THE MACHINERY WITHIN
IS WONDEROUS INDEED, SIRE!
BUT MY MASTERS WERE NOT
A WARLIKE RACE! THERE
ARE NO WEAPONS OF
DESTRUCTION HERE--!



WEAPON? YOU
WANT A WEAPON, WHY
DIDN'T YOU SAY SO,
ROOK MAN?

HERE! KATE
MCALL AIN'T DRESSED
LESSER SHE'S SPORTING
HER COLT .45!



THERE IS ONE
DEVICE WHICH MAY
INTEREST YOU, SIRE!
IT'S BUT A TOY USED
BY MY MASTERS FOR
PLEASURE.

PERHAPS IT
WILL ALLOW YOU
TO ENTER YOUR
DESTINATION
UNDETECTED...!

WHAT EVER IT
IS, ROBOT...LAY
IT ON ME! I
NEED ALL THE
HELP I CAN
GET!



IT'S GOT TO STOP!

OUR ENTIRE TOWN IS BEING BLEED BY THESE ...THESE MURDERERS AND THIEVES!



THAT GAT HAWKIN HAS SWUNG THE DOORS A OUR TOWN WIDE OPEN TO THEM!

DECENT FOLK AIN'T SAFE IN THEIR OWN HOMES NO MORE!



LOOK! LOOK WHAT THEY DONE TO MY SADIE! SOB! THREE OF 'EM! THEY... THEY FORCED THEIR WAY INTO OUR HOME... AN... AND THEY FORCED HER--! OH GOD! SOB!

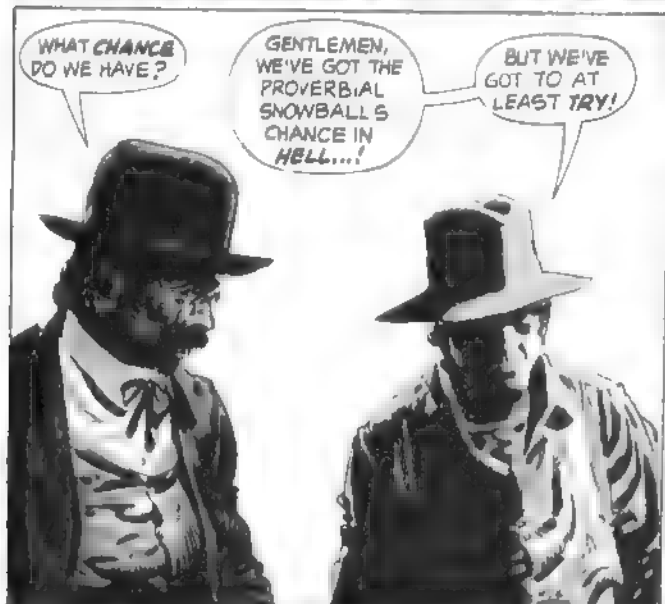
THEM ANIMALS! THEY MIGHT JUST AS WELL A KILLED HER! SHE'D BE BETTER OFF THAN SHE IS NOW!



SOMETHIN'S GOTTA BE DONE!

WE GOTTA TAKE A STAND! NONE A OUR WIVES OR OUR CHILDREN ARE SAFE!

BUT...BUT THERE'S SO MANY OF THEM! A-AND THEY'RE ALL HIRED GUNS...PROFESSIONAL KILLERS!



WHAT CHANCE DO WE HAVE?

GENTLEMEN, WE'VE GOT THE PROVERBIAL SNOWBALL'S CHANCE IN HELL...!

BUT WE'VE GOT TO AT LEAST TRY!



DYIN' IS BETTER THAN LIVIN' IN FEAR!

I SAY WE ATTACK 'EM IN FORCE...!

AND WE DO IT NOW!



THIS... THIS
IS A FLYING
MACHINE?

ACCORDING TO THE
ROBOT GUARDIAN IT WAS
USED BY ALIENS THOUSANDS
OF YEARS AGO... FOR
SHEER SPORT!



WE'VE GOT SOME
THING LIKE IT WHERE I
COME FROM, TOO!

IT RIDES THE
WIND WITH THE GRACE
OF A SOARING BIRD!

BUT BEST OF ALL...
IT'S SILENT! I CAN LAND
ON THE ROOF OF THE DANCE-
HALL, AND GAT'S BOYS WILL
NEVER EVEN HEAR ME
COMING!



YOU'RE STILL
IN NO SHAPE TO
TAKE 'EM ALL,
COWBOY!

NOW WHAT
WOULD YOU THINK
OF ME IF I DIDN'T
AT LEAST TRY?

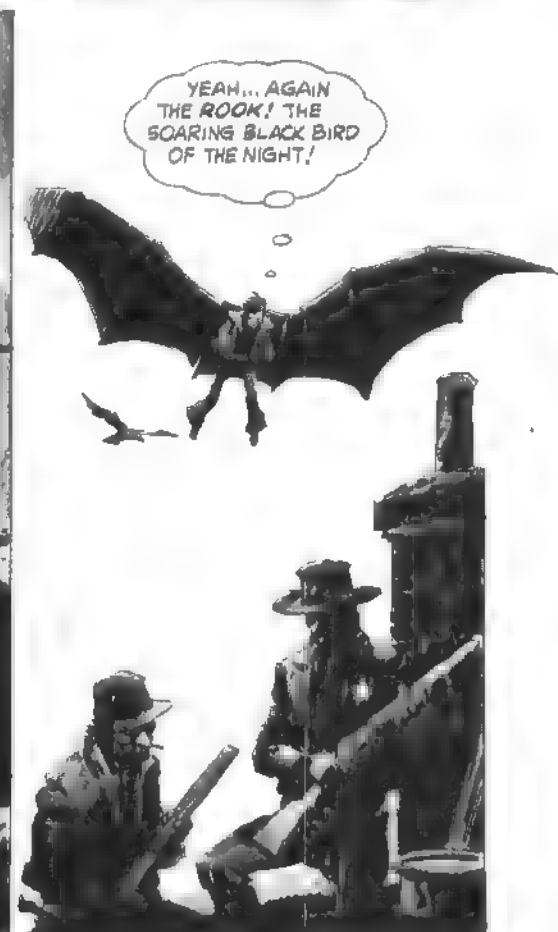


IF I DON'T
COME BACK... LET ME
THANK YOU FOR ALL
YOU'VE DONE!



GOOD LUCK,
ROOK MAN!

GOD... YOU'RE
GONNA NEED IT!



YEAH... AGAIN
THE ROOK! THE
SOARING BLACK BIRD
OF THE NIGHT!







MISTER, I DON'T
KNOW WHO Y'ARE OR
WHY YOU'RE WEARIN'
THAT TIN SUIT...

...BUT I SURE AS
HELL AM GLAD I'M ON
YOUR SIDE!

THAK!
TINWAK!
THAK!

KSMASK!

SKASHH!

H-HE'S A MONSTER!
H-HELP ME! HE'LL EAT
ME ALIVE!

THIS ONE'S FOR
KATE

THOK!

BOKT!

THIS ONE'S
FOR JAN!

URSHLL!

H-HOLD IT...!
I'M ON YOUR
SIDE!

THAK!

BOKT!

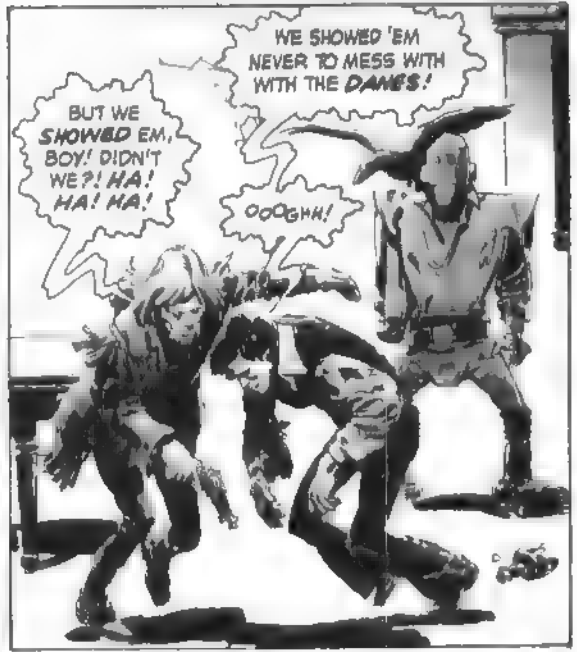
AND THIS ONE, YOU
SCUM, IS A SPECIAL ONE
...FROM ME TO YOU!



JEEZUS! WHAT A
MESS! AND JUST LOOK AT
YOU, BOY! AIN'T A SPOT ON
YOUR BODY THAT'S NOT GOT
SOME KIND A PUNCTURE
OR HOLE!

HA! HA! SAME
MIGHT BE SAID FOR
YOU, OLD MAN!

WE'RE JUST A
COUPLE A'BLEEDIN'
SEIVES!



BUT WE
SHOWED EM,
BOY! DIDN'T
WE?! HA!
HA! HA!

WE SHOWED 'EM
NEVER TO MESS WITH
WITH THE DANKS!

OOOGHH!



AH...THE
FRAILTY OF HUMAN
FLESH...! IT NEVER
CEASES TO ASTOUND
ME!



WELL...GENTLEMEN!
I ASSURE YOU, IT'S
BEEN A PROFOUND
PLEASURE!

THE VILLAINS
I LEAVE
TO YOUR
CHARGE...



...WHILE I WILL
ATTEND TO THE WOUNDS
OF MY MASTERS, POST
HASTE!



JEEZUS!
WHO WAS THAT
GUY?

I DUNNO! BUT
HE SURE WAS
UGLY!

LATER...! MUCH LATER! IN FACT, MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED YEARS LATER...IN THE SHELTERED ANTISEPTIC DESERT FORTRESS OF ONE RESTIN PANE, THE SOFT INTONEMENT OF AN OLD MAN'S RASPY VOICE, GENTLY RECKONS THE ROBOT MAN'S SERVANT



TIN MAN!



YOU BELLOWED, SIR?

WHAT AM I DOIN' WRAPPED UP LIKE A NINNYDADDERING MUMMY?

AND WHERE'S THAT HELLION GRANDSON A MINE?



RIGHT HERE, OLD MAN! TRYING WAINLY TO GET SOME REST AMIDST THIS THUNDERING RACKET!

AIN'T YOU HAD ENOUGH REST, BOY? HOW LONG WE BEEN GLUED TO THESE BEDS, ANYWAY?



A LITTLE MORE THAN THREE DAYS, SIRE!

THREE DAYS? DAMN PINHEAD METAL MAN! NO WONDER I ACHE ALL OVER! 'BOUT TIME WE GOT UP AND ON TO ANOTHER ADVENTURE, AIN'T IT?

YOU'RE GOING NO-
WHERE, GUNFIGHTER! NOT TILL ALL THOSE LITTLE HOLES IN YOUR BODY ARE HEALED UP!



WELL I'LL BE--! KATE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

I'M SORRY, SIR! SHE INSISTED ON COMING ALONG 'I COULDN'T VERY WELL LEAVE HER IN THAT HORRIBLY VIOLENT WORLD YOU CALL THE OLD WEST!



AFTER ALL...YOU NEEDED SOMEONE TO LOOK AFTER YOUR WOUNDS!

JAN! Y-YOU'RE HERE, TOO? A-AND YOU'RE ALL RIGHT?

NEVER BETTER, THANKS TO MY TWO NURSES, KATE AND MANNERS!



ALL IN ALL, I'D SAY EVERYTHING ENDED PRETTY WELL!

ENDED, SIR? IF I MAY BE SO BOLD...! THIS LOOKS LIKE ANYTHING BUT THE END!

IT LOOKS LIKE A WHOLE NEW BEGINNING...

END

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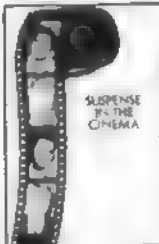
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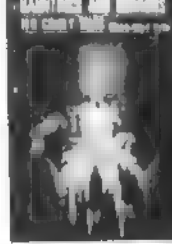
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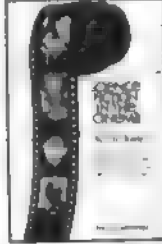
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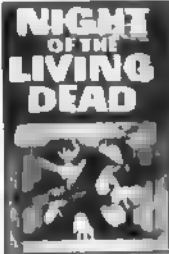
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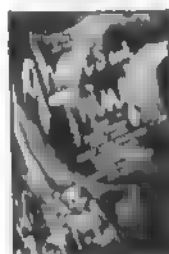
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RESUME. THE HOLY-COST--THE WORLD WAR THAT NEARLY ENDED EVERYBODY--IS 15 YEARS PAST, YET AMAZINGLY, WAR PERSISTS. THE VALUES BEING FOUGHT OVER ARE CHANGED, AND THERE ARE FEWER PEOPLE TO FIGHT OVER THEM, BUT IT'S WAR AND WAR'S STILL THE SAME.

ON ONE SIDE WE HAVE **HARD JOHN APPLE**, RETIRED PROT MERCENARY SOLDIER AND POSSESSOR OF 1250 **TACTICAL NUCLEAR MISSILES**, WHO IS, FOR REASONS OF HIS OWN, PLANNING TO FINISH THE JOB THE HOLY-COST DID NOT, I.E., **DESTROY MANKIND**.

AIDING HIM IN THIS IS **THE GENERAL**, THE PRECOCIOUS ORANGUTAN, TRAINED TO PERFORM THE **SUICIDAL** TASK OF LAUNCHING THE WORLD-WRECKING MISSILES.

ON ANOTHER SIDE IS **TARARA BOOMDEYOV**, SOLE ADVANCE SCOUT FOR A MASSIVE **RED THREAT** INVASIONARY FORCE, MAKING ITS WAY TO THE UNITED STATES ALONG THE ALASKA PIPELINE, WHO HAS BECOME HARD JOHN'S PRISONER AND IS JUST NOW LEARNING THE EXTENT OF HIS DOOMSDAY SCHEME.

MEANWHILE, THE **PROTS**, BETRAYED BY THEIR FORMER MERCENARY, HAVE ORDERED AN ALL-OUT EFFORT TO **KILL** HARD JOHN BEFORE HE CAN RELEASE THE MISSILES.

LASTLY WE HAVE THE **CATLICKS**, HARD JOHN'S HATED ENEMIES, WHO ARE THE ONLY FACTION THAT BELIEVES HARD JOHN HAS REALLY BECOME A SHEEPHERDER, BUT WOULD STILL KILL HIM IF THEY COULD TO GET AHOOLD OF HIS SHEEP.

AND IT GOES ROUND AND ROUND, AND IT COMES OUT HERE...

Hard John's

NUCLEAR Hit Parade

SOMEDAY...AFTER
YOU'VE PUT IN YOUR
TIME WITH OUR
ORGANIZATION...
ALL **THIS** COULD
BE YOURS.

YOU'LL HAVE TO
WORK YOUR WAY UP
THROUGH THE RANKS,
OF COURSE, AND YOU'LL
BE IN COMPETITION
WITH AN ORANGUTAN

YOU'RE
DERANGED.

BRASS MONKEY





YOU LAUGH! WHAT DO YOU KNOW OF LOYALTY AND COMPASSION? YOU HAVEN'T AN OUNCE OF EITHER YOURSELF.

DOES THAT APE FRIEND OF YOURS FOR INSTANCE, HAVE ANY IDEA THAT YOUR PLAN WILL BE SUICIDE FOR HIM?

SURE, I THINK SO. WE DIDN'T GET INTO ANY LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS ABOUT IT, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU MEAN.



WHERE DID YOU FIND HIM?

THE GENERAL? I PUT AN AD IN THE PAPER.

THE TRUTH.



THAT IS THE TRUTH. I NEEDED AN EXCEPTIONALLY SMART ORANGUTAN TO LAUNCH THE MISSILES, AND I REASONED THAT ONLY A REALLY SMART ORANGUTAN WOULD READ THE WANT ADS.

BUT ENOUGH OF THAT. HOW ABOUT GIVING ME A HAND WITH SOMETHING?

FORGET IT I WON'T HELP YOU WITH YOUR NUTSY SCHEME.



I'LL HAVE TO LEAVE YOU WITH THE GENERAL, THEN. AND I WARN YOU.. HE'S USUALLY VERY ROUGH WHEN HE SEDUCES OUR PRISONERS.

SEDUCE..? ER.. PERHAPS I WILL GIVE YOU A HAND AFTER ALL.



I SEE YOU! INTO THE ORANGES AGAIN!

WHY CAN'T YOU EAT SAGEBRUSH LIKE ALL THE OTHER ANIMALS IN THIS ZOO?

OOH OOOH?



NO. THERE'S BEEN A CHANGE OF PLANS. I'M TAKING THE DAME WITH ME I WANT YOU TO WATCH THE STORE.

OOH OHHH!

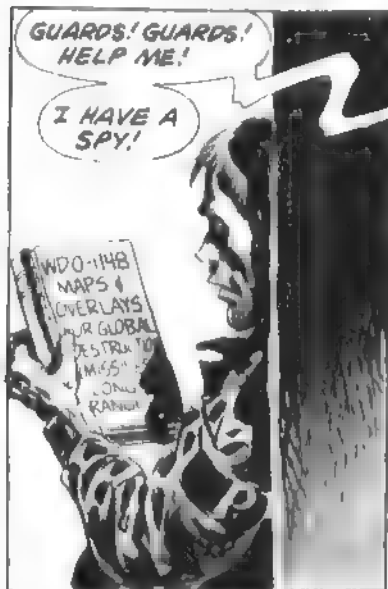
I KNOW I PROMISED YOU COULD COME ALONG, BUT NOW I WANT YOU TO STAY. I DON'T NEED YOU! STRAIGHT?



...NO, COME ON, YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN

OH, DAMMIT.







SLAM

RUDOLF!
YOU'VE COME
FOR ME AT
LAST!

RUDOLF?



THAT'S YOUR
BOYFRIEND? THAT'S
RUDOLF??

WHY, HELL, THAT AIN'T
NOBODY BUT HEMLOCK
ZINGER... THE MOST RUTHLESS
AND DESPICABLE MAN ON
EARTH!

TARARA!...
AND HARD JOHN
APPLE! HOW INTERESTING
TO FIND YOU TWO
LIKE THIS.



RUDOLF, SET
ME FREE! THIS
MAN IS A NUTSY-
FRUTSY!

PATIENCE,
DARLING.

YOU'RE WITH THE RED
THREATS NOW, ZINGER?
S'MATTER, HAVE A FALLING
OUT WITH THE CATLICKS?



NOTHING OF THE SORT.
I STILL WORK FOR THE CAT-
LICKS, AND I WORK FOR THE
RED THREATS, AND FOR THE
PROTS, AND A FEW OTHERS.

OF COURSE! PLAYING
ALL THE SIDES, WAITING TO
SEE WHO COMES OUT ON TOP.
BUT THE ONLY WINNER IN THE
END WILL BE YOU,
RIGHT, ZINGER?



RUDOLF, PLEASE!
TAKE ME AWAY
FROM THIS
MANIAC!

IN GOOD
TIME, MY DEAR.
I HAVEN'T DECIDED
WHAT TO DO WITH
YOU YET.

I THINK YOU'VE BEEN
HAD, SISTER HEMLOCK
ZINGER HAS NO FRIENDS...
MALE, FEMALE, OR OTHERWISE
ZINGER ONLY USES PEOPLE,
THEN THROWS THEM AWAY.



HE'S RIGHT,
TARARA. YOU'VE
BEEN USED VERY
BADLY

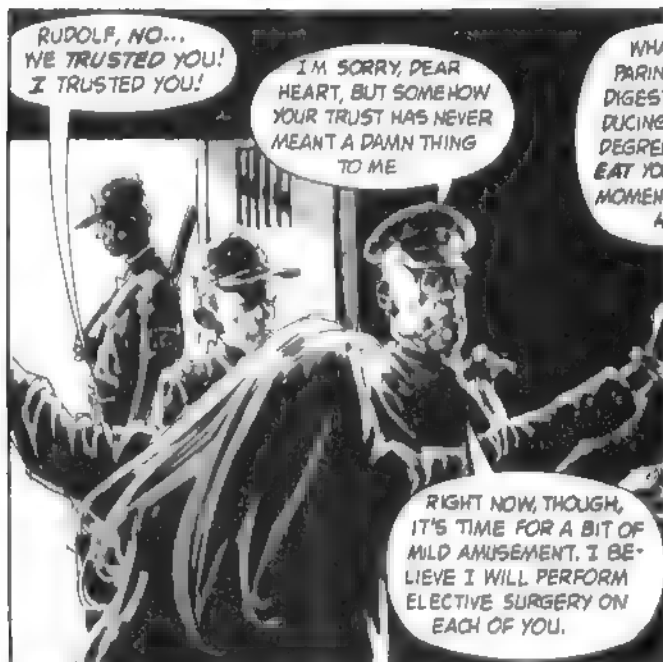
I CREATED THE RED
THREAT ARMY TO HELP ME
WIN BACK MY MISSILES FROM
HARD JOHN, THE SAME AS I'VE
USED THE PROTS AND THE CAT-
LICKS AND EVERYONE ELSE
AGAINST HARD JOHN APPLE!

I WANT MY
MISSILES
BACK!



JUMPING
ANACONDA! THE WHOLE
WORLD REALLY WAS
AGAINST ME! I WASN'T
JUST GETTING
PARANOID!

NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
AT LAST, HARD JOHN, THE RE-
LIGIOUS POWERS ARE NO LONGER
IMPORTANT TO ME. THE PROTS
AND THE CATLICKS AND THE RED
THREATS CAN NOW FIGHT IT OUT
AMONG THEMSELVES, AND WHAT
IS LEFT I WILL TAKE OVER.

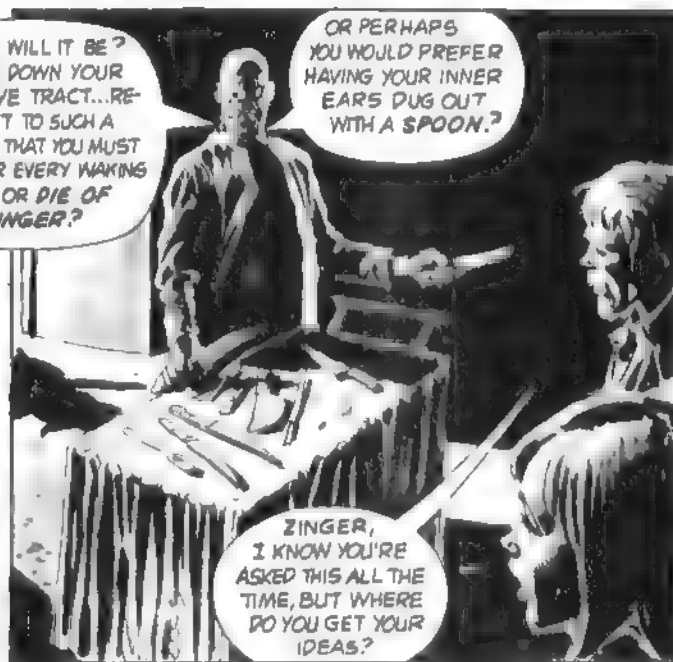


RUDOLF, NO...
WE TRUSTED YOU!
I TRUSTED YOU!

I'M SORRY, DEAR
HEART, BUT SOMEHOW
YOUR TRUST HAS NEVER
MEANT A DAMN THING
TO ME

WHAT WILL IT BE?
PARING DOWN YOUR
DIGESTIVE TRACT...RE-
DUCING IT TO SUCH A
DEGREE THAT YOU MUST
EAT YOUR EVERY WAKING
MOMENT OR DIE OF
HUNGER?

RIGHT NOW, THOUGH,
IT'S TIME FOR A BIT OF
MILD AMUSEMENT. I BE-
LIEVE I WILL PERFORM
ELECTIVE SURGERY ON
EACH OF YOU.



OR PERHAPS
YOU WOULD PREFER
HAVING YOUR INNER
EARS DUG OUT
WITH A SPOON?

ZINGER,
I KNOW YOU'RE
ASKED THIS ALL THE
TIME, BUT WHERE
DO YOU GET YOUR
IDEAS?



BLAST! AN
ALARM! SOMEBODY
HAS BROKEN INTO
THIS SECTOR!

UNFORTUNATELY,
I'LL HAVE TO ATTEND
TO YOU BOTH
LATER.

BREEP

BREEP

WE'LL
BE RIGHT
HERE



HEY, LISTEN, I'VE BEEN
THINKING. MAYBE I WON'T
BLOW UP THE EARTH
AFTER ALL.

NOW THAT I KNOW
ZINGER WAS BEHIND THIS
WORLD-WIDE PLOT TO DESTROY
ME, I CAN COME. MAYBE I'LL
EVEN JOIN YOUR REVOLUTION.



THERE IS NO
REVOLUTION. DIDN'T
YOU HEAR, IT WAS
A LIE FROM THE
BEGINNING.

HOLD IT A
MINUTE. DO YOU
HEAR SOMETHING?

PERHAPS I
SHOULD HAVE LET
YOU DESTROY EVERY-
THING. IT WOULD HAVE
WASHED AWAY A LOT
OF THE GARBAGE.



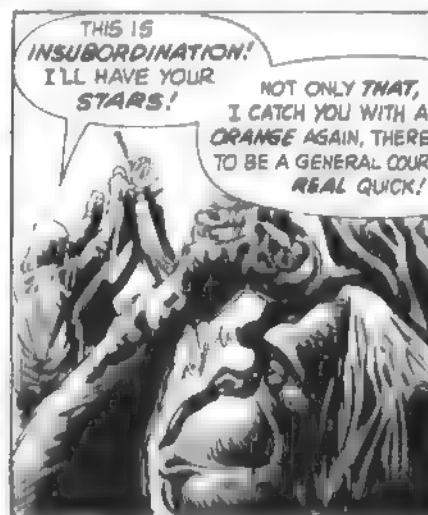
GENERAL!
WHAT ARE YOU
DOING HERE?

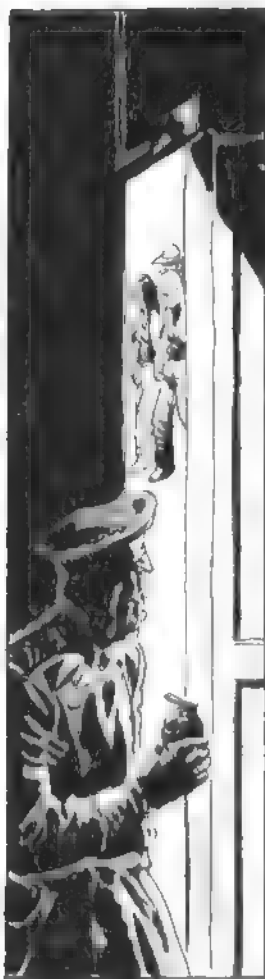
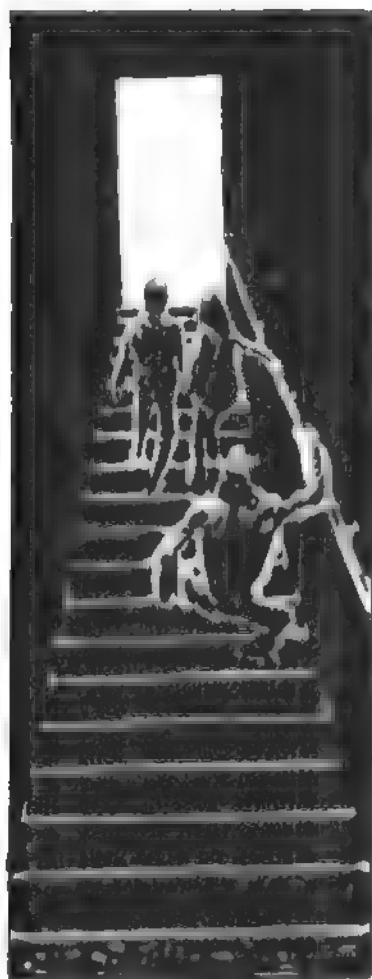
I ORDERED YOU
TO STAY BACK AT
THE--



OOPS, HE'S
GONE.

I HOPE HE
DIDN'T TAKE
ME SERIOUSLY.







JOHN, YOU CAN'T STAY HERE! SOLDIERS ARE COMING! YOU CAN'T FIGHT THEM UNARMED!

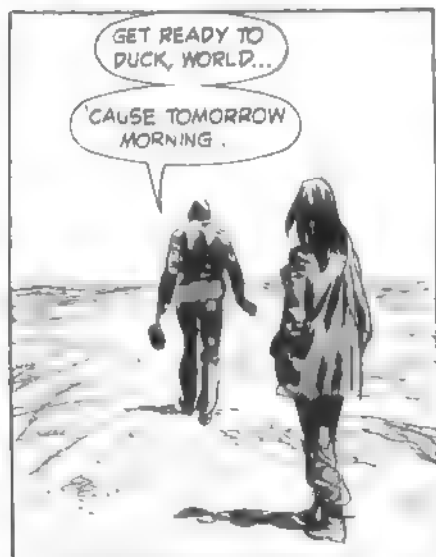


YEAH, RIGHT... I CAN'T FIGHT THEM HERE. GOTTA GET BACK TO BASE.



ZINGER? YOU UNDER THERE?

COME ON OUT, YOU MURDERIN' MONSTER! I'M GONNA CUT YOUR HEART OUT!



GET READY TO DUCK, WORLD...

'CAUSE TOMORROW MORNING.



...EVERYBODY WAKES UP TO A BAKED APPLE SERVED ON THEIR FRONT LAWNS!

WAIT UP, JOHN..!



YOU'RE GOING TO NEED HELP!

I'M A HERO. AT LEAST THAT'S HOW MY AGENT, ONE ABE TOUCHSTONE, (TOUCHY TO HIS FRIENDS AND BY NATURE) SELLS ME.



MY FIRST TASTE OF HEROIC ADVENTURE CAME AT THE OTHER END OF THE GALAXY...ME AGAINST A CYCLOPS.

AND HERE I WAS AGAIN. TOUCHY'D CALLED ME FROM A DISTANT PLANET (COLLECT, NO LESS) AND SAID THAT HE'D FOUND ME A HEROING JOB.



HE'D TOLD ME TO MEET HIM HERE. I WAS HOPING ALL THESE COFFINS AND TOMBY-THINGS WEREN'T A SIGN OF THINGS TO COME.

JUST IN CASE YOU'RE ONE OF THE FEW WHO HAVEN'T FOLLOWED MY THRILLING ADVENTURES, DON'T BE FOOLED BY THAT CUDDY NAME. CHUCK!

CHUCK MAYHEW IS A LEFTOVER FROM MY FORMER LIFE AS AN APPLE-CHEEKED SCHOOLBOY, TO BE USED ONLY BY MY MOTHER, MY BASEBALL COACH AND THAT CHICK IN SCARSDALE WHO...WELL, NEVER MIND.

OH, AND MY AGENT, TOUCHY...WHO, INCIDENTALLY GAVE ME MY HEROING NAME. YOU MAY CALL ME...

GODEYE

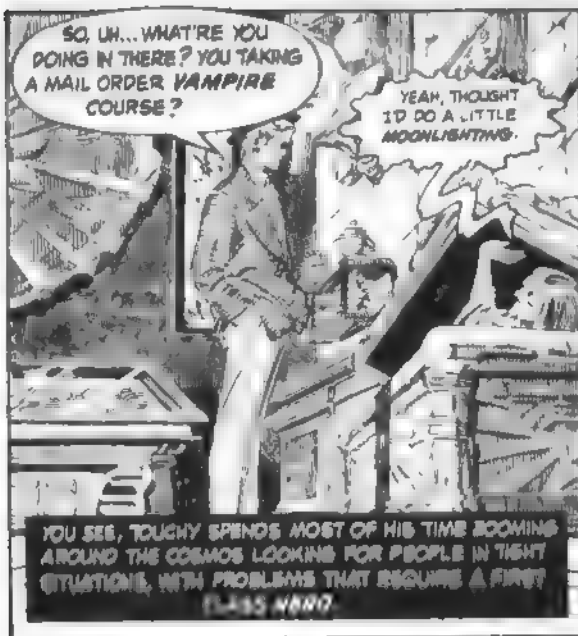
...HERO EXTRAORDINAIRE. (BUT PLEASE DON'T CALL ME COLLECT.) (THANK YOU.)

PSST! CHUCK! IT'S ME! TOUCHY! OVER HERE IN THE SARCOPHAGUS! C'MERE!

WHAT IS THIS? "I SING THE BODY ELECTRIC" OR RETURN OF THE MUMMY?

ITS, STOP-CRACKING-WISE-AND-GET-YOUR-TAIL-OVER-HERE-BEFORE-YOU-BLOW-THE-JOB!

GOODBYE, YELLOW BRICK RHODE



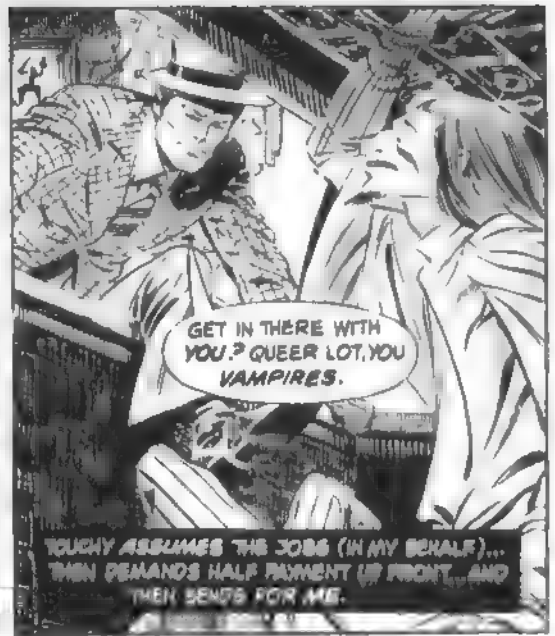
SO, UM... WHAT'RE YOU DOING IN THERE? YOU TAKING A MAIL ORDER VAMPIRE COURSE?

YEAH, THOUGHT I'D DO A LITTLE MOONLIGHTING.

YOU SEE, TOUCHY SPENDS MOST OF HIS TIME ZOOMING AROUND THE COSMOS LOOKING FOR PEOPLE IN TIGHT SITUATIONS, WITH PROBLEMS THAT REQUIRE A FIRST CLASS HERO.

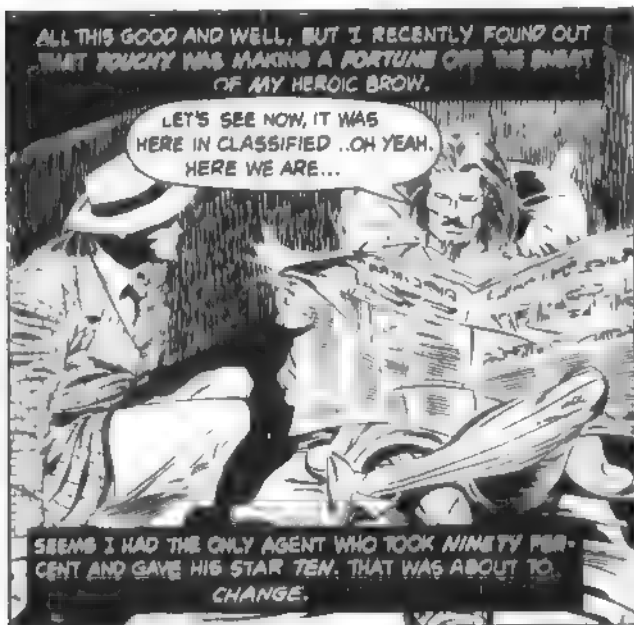


CRUCK, GET IN AND I'LL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT THE JOBS I'VE LINED UP FOR YOU.



GET IN THERE WITH YOU? QUEER LOT, YOU VAMPIRES.

TOUCHY ASSUMES THE JOBS (IN MY BEHALF)... THEN DEMANDS HALF PAYMENT UP FRONT... AND THEN SENDS FOR ME.



ALL THIS GOOD AND WELL, BUT I RECENTLY FOUND OUT THAT TOUCHY WAS MAKING A FORTUNE OFF THE SWEAT OF MY HEROIC BROW.

LET'S SEE NOW, IT WAS HERE IN CLASSIFIED... OH YEAH... HERE WE ARE...

SEEMS I HAD THE ONLY AGENT WHO TOOK NINETY PERCENT AND GAVE HIS STAR TEN. THAT WAS ABOUT TO CHANGE.



NOW LOOK, TOUCHY, I SIMPLY REFUSE TO TAKE ANOTHER JOB UNLESS I GET PAID TWENTY PER CENT!

YOU WOUND HE. MUST WE ALWAYS ENDANGER OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH TALK OF MONEY?

BUT THEN AGAIN, MAYBE IT WASN'T ABOUT TO CHANGE.



OKAY NOW, WHAT WE GOT HERE IS A MAKESHIFT TRANSPORTER DEVICE.

THIS BUTTON WILL ACTIVATE THIS SARCOPHAGUS AND'LL PUT US ON THE PLANET IN AN INSTANT. AND IF...

...WOULD YOU PAY ATTENTION?

WHERE'D THIS PAPER COME FROM?

WHAT?... OH, THE PLANET ELTON. ELTON IS WHERE WE'RE GOING IF YOU'LL PAY...



OBVIOUSLY A BARBARIC PLANET, NO COMIC STRIPS

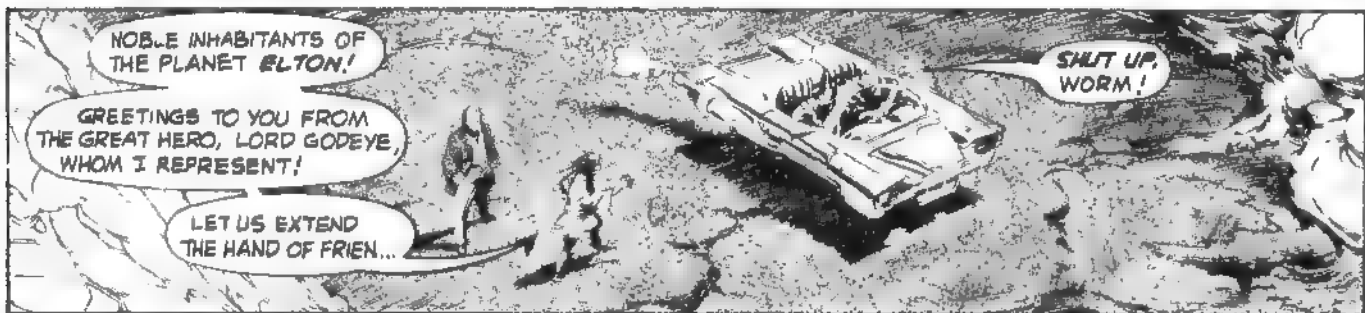
SAY, WHAT'S THIS AD ABOUT A PRINCESS BEING HELD PRISONER, RESCUER TO BE PAID THE TREASURE OF THE RHODE?"

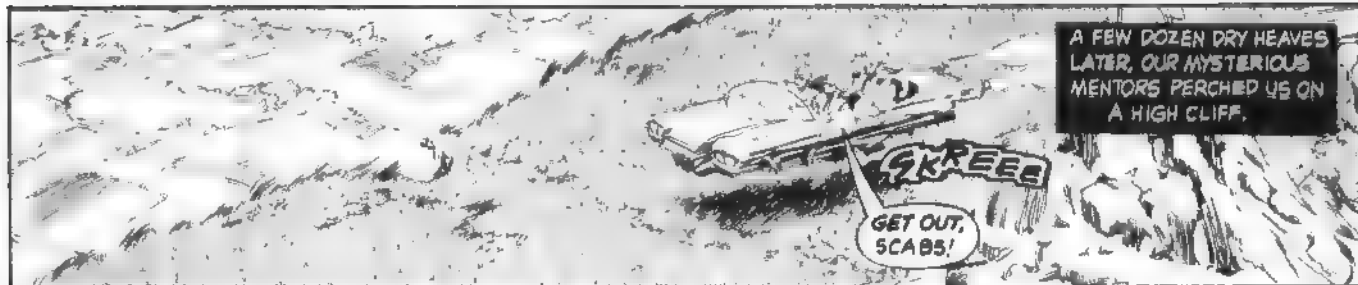
KUSNKK

YOU IDIOT, YOU JUST HIT THE BUTTON! HANG ON, KID!

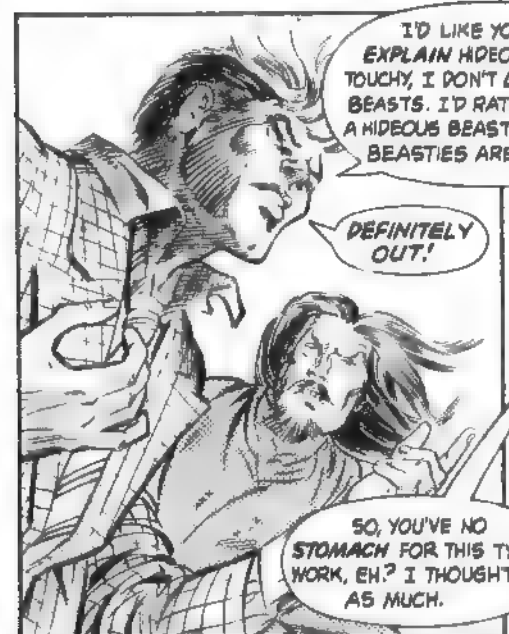
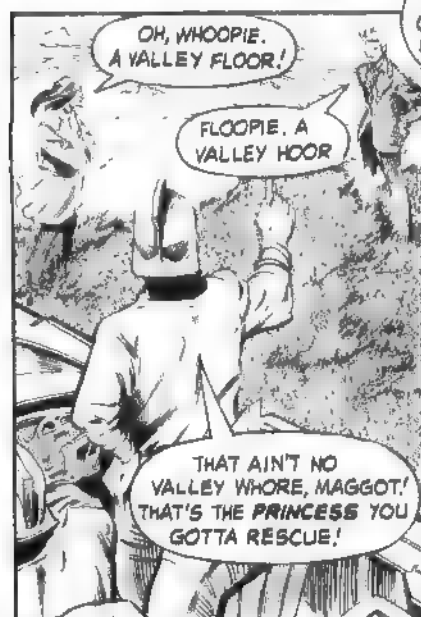
TWENTY PER...

WELL, I LIKE SURPRISES ANYWAY. SO, WITH NO MORE SAID, WE WERE OFF LIKE A HERD OF TURTLES TO THE MYSTERIOUS PLANET ELTON!





A FEW DOZEN DRY HEAVES
LATER, OUR MYSTERIOUS
MENTORS PERCHED US ON
A HIGH CLIFF.



WHAT IT BOILED DOWN TO WAS THIS: THERE WAS THIS PRINCESS, WHO WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT WOMAN ON THE PLANET.

ALSO, THERE WAS THIS CREATURE THAT LIVED IN THIS VALLEY WHO HATED EVERYONE ELSE ON THE PLANET AND DECIDED TO STEAL THEIR MOST PRIZED POSSESSION... THE PRINCESS.

THE RHODE SEEMS TO BE A LARGE GOLDEN SPHERE MADE OUT OF BRICKS OR STONES.

HISTORICALLY, THE RHODE IS A SOPHISTICATED JAILING DEVICE ONCE USED ON A PENAL COLONY PLANET.

THE CREATURE HAD PLACED HER ON A BIZARRE DEVICE CALLED A RHODE. AND ONCE ONE WAS PLACED ON THE RHODE, IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO GET ONE SELF OFF.

HMM.

YEAH, A PRISONER PLACED ATOP A RHODE IS FOREVER STRANDED.

EACH TIME THE PRISONER ON THE RHODE TAKES A STEP, THE SENSITIVE MECHANISM ROLLS BENEATH THE STEP.

SO HE ENDS UP DOING NOTHING BUT LOG ROLLING.

OH, A RHODE IS A DEVIOUS DEVICE ALRIGHT... THE PERFECT WAY TO KEEP SOMEONE IMPRISONED RIGHT OUT IN THE OPEN.

WHY, I HEAR TELL THAT EVEN IF YOU TRY TO LEAP OFF THE RHODE, IT'LL ROLL RIGHT BACK UNDER YOU.

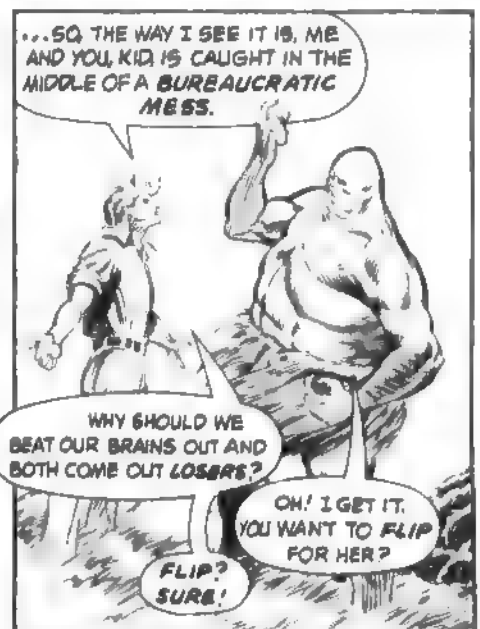
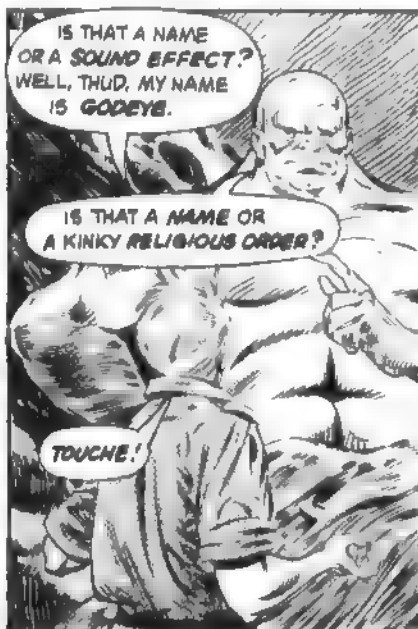
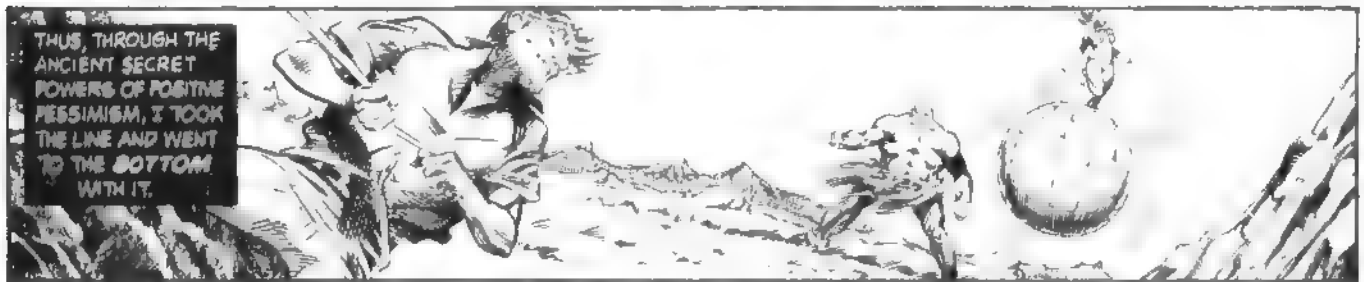
DO TELL.

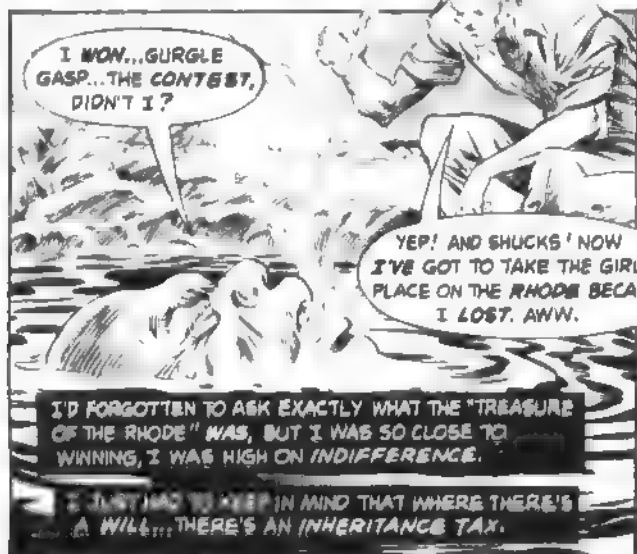
IT'S SORT OF LIKE THE BEER BARREL POLKA. WITHOUT THE BEER, OR THE BARREL, OR THE POLKA.

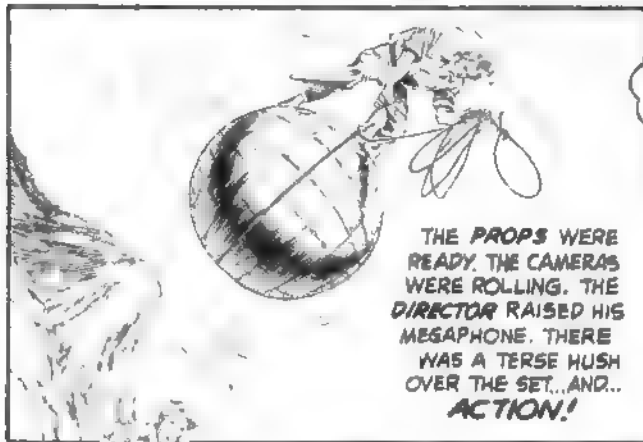
HONESTLY, CHUCK. I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU'RE GOING TO PULL THIS ONE OFF.

EVEN YOU CAN SOMEHOW FIGURE OUT A WAY TO GET THE GIRL OFF THE RHODE, YOU'VE STILL GOT THE...

...UH OH.







THE PROPS WERE READY. THE CAMERAS WERE ROLLING. THE DIRECTOR RAISED HIS MEGAPHONE. THERE WAS A TERSE HUSH OVER THE SET...AND...
ACTION!

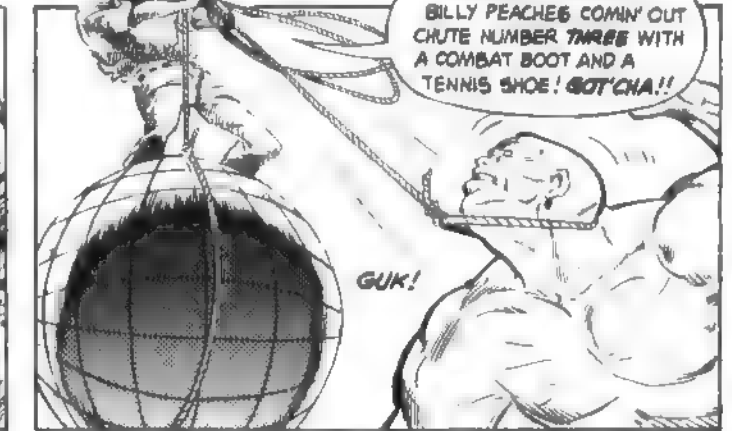


NOW I'LL JUST WALK THIS BALL OVER TO THE EDGE OF THE HOLE. EASY NOW.



OH, TUDDIE! COME SEE WHAT I HAVE HERE, WOULD YOU?

YOU CALLING ME, GODEYE?



YAHOOO! RAGTIME BILLY PEACHES COMIN' OUT CHUTE NUMBER THREE WITH A COMBAT BOOT AND A TENNIS SHOE! GOT'CHA!!

GUK!



I ROLLED THE RHODE TO THE EDGE OF THE WATER FILLED HOLE, LASSED THE THUD AND JUMPED CLEAR.

AS I HAD HOPED, THE RHODE, WHICH FLOATED ABOUT THREE FEET ABOVE THE SURFACE, FELT THE SURFACE DROP SUDDENLY...AND PLUMMETED AFTER IT, DRAGGING THUD WITH IT.



EVEN THOUGH I RESCUED THE PRINCESS, I DIDN'T GET THE PROMISED TREASURE. UNFORTUNATELY, THE TREASURE WAS THE RHODE ITSELF. IT WAS MADE ENTIRELY OF SOLID 24K GOLD BRICKS!

GOODBYE, YELLOW BRICK RHODE.

HE WHO WAITS IN SHADOW!

NIGHT... HAS ALWAYS
BEEN A BAD TIME. WITH-
OUT THE LIGHT, I CANNOT
DEFEND MYSELF AGAINST
THE SOUNDS AND THE
MEMORIES.

THEY CREATE THE DOOR-
WAY. THROUGH IT HE
COMES TO PLAGUE ME ANEW.
HE TEARS AT MY SELF,
EATS AT MY SOUL.



THE SAD THING
ABOUT IT IS THAT,
LIKE FRANKENSTEIN,
I CREATED MY OWN
TORMENTER.



HE WAS BORN
OF LOVE...



...BUT PERVERTED
BY HATRED.



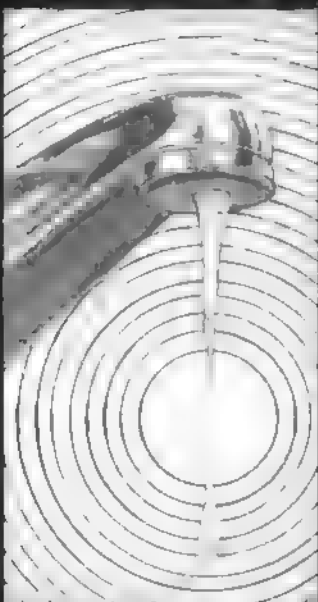
...AND FINALLY RE-
LEASED BY DEATH.



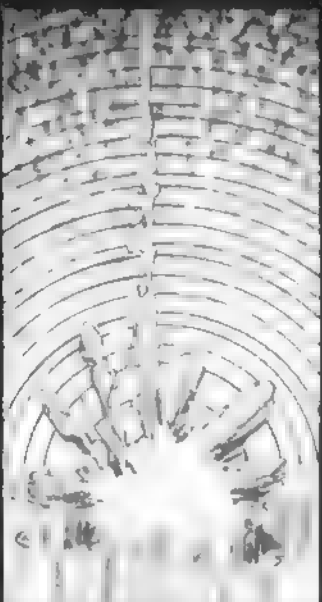
MY EMOTIONS WERE
JUST TOO POWERFUL
TO BE CONTAINED.



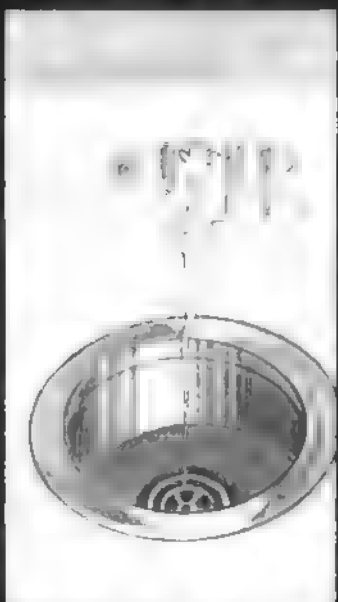
IN ORDER TO BREAK
FREE FROM MY CONTROL
THEY CHANGED



DARKER, MORE VIOLENT
THEY BURST UPON THE
WORLD UNCHECKER



MY MATE FOR HER HAD
TO BE AS STRONG AS MY
LOVE HAD BEEN.



ONCE THAT HAPPENED THE
NIGHT LOST ITS WARMTH,
WORDS NO LONGER HELD
ANY MEANING, AND FACES
PASSED IN THE DARKNESS
NEVER TO BE RECALLED.



NOW I FIND THE WORLD
TO BE A PLACE OF HARSH
ANGLES AND SHARP
CUTTING EDGES.



I AM ALONE.



ALONE WITH THE
AMBER RECOLLECTION
OF SOMETHING
LOVELY... SOMETHING
DESPICABLE...
SOMETHING TRAGIC,
SOMETHING DEAD



WHY?



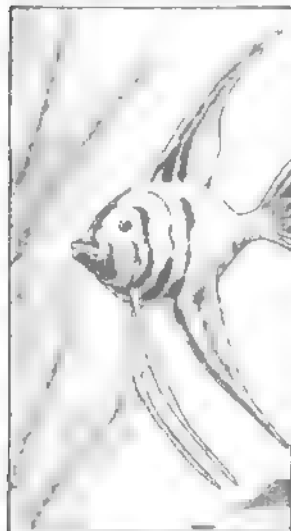
PERHAPS I JUST FORGOT THE BEAUTY WHICH WAS WITHIN HER.



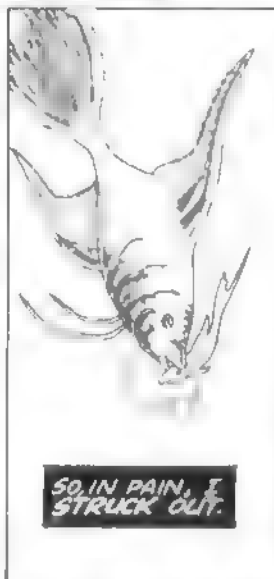
I WAS ENCHANTED BY THE MOMENT, BLIND TO THE FUTURE.



IT FLOWED SO EASILY. WE WERE SO CLOSE.



MAYBE THAT CLOSENESS DISGUISED THE TORMENT WE BEGAN TO INFLECT UPON EACH OTHER

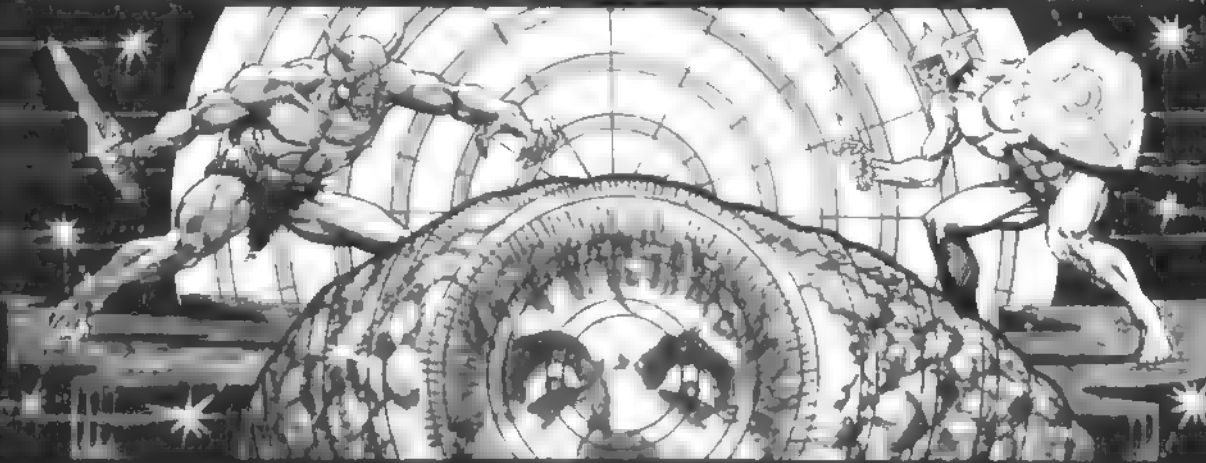


SO, IN PAIN, I STRUCK OUT.

I HAD NO OTHER CHOICE



I NEVER HAD, AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER, THE DEMON HAS ALWAYS BESTED THE GUARDIAN.



THE BLACK ONE'S FINAL VICTORY WAS BY THE SEA.



...THE BIRTHPLACE OF
LIFE.



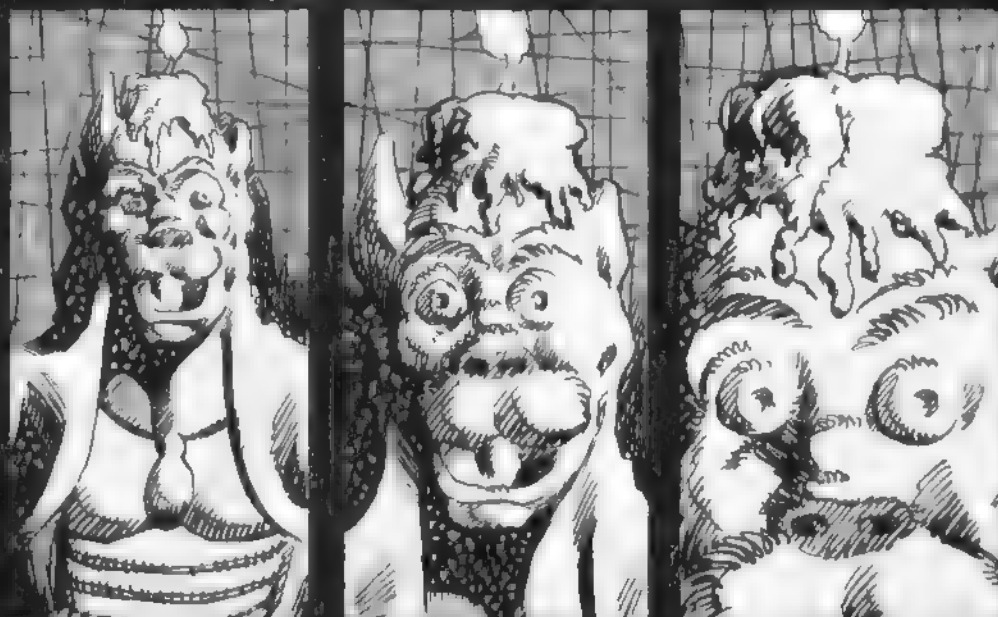
SO NOW I SIT
ALONE, EMPTY
OF ALL BUT
DESPAIR, HAUNTED
BY THE TREASON
OF MY ACTIONS
AND...



...BY HE WHO
LIES WITHIN ME,
STANDS BEHIND
ME, MONITORS
EVERY FUTILE
ACCOMPLISHMENT
AND LAUGHS AT
MY NOBLEST
DESIRES.

WHOM
YOU
ASK.

HE WHO STANDS IN SHADOW.



I SHOULD HAVE REALIZED I
COULDN'T PLAY HIS GAME
AND HOPE TO WIN.

HE SET
THE RULES
AND CALLED
THE STAKES.



I NEVER
HAD A
CHANCE.

NOW I'M ONLY
TRYING TO LEAVE
THE GAME TABLE
WHAT LITTLE
DIGNITY I HAVE
LEFT.



THAT'S NOT MUCH
TO ASK, IS IT?

YOU SEE THIS WAY
THERE WILL NO
LONGER BE ANY
MORE SHADOWS
OR VOICES OR
THOUGHTS OR
NIGHTS.



ALL THAT REMAINS IS
ONE LAST DECISION...



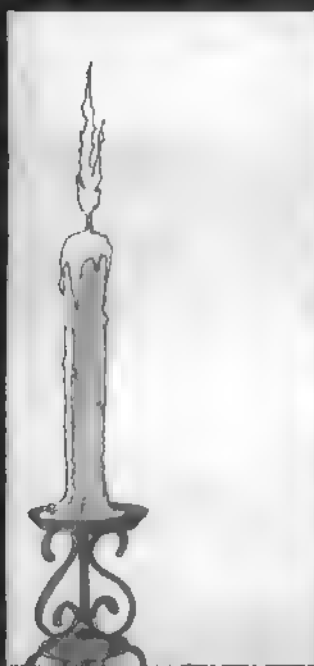
...ON THE TIME...



...THE PLACE...



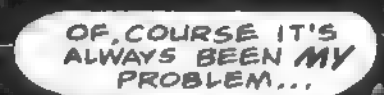
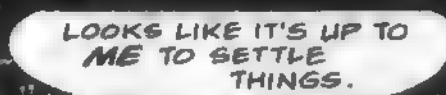
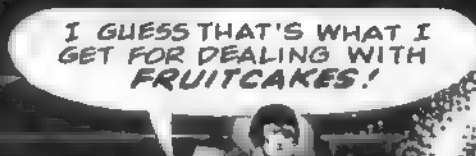
...THE WAY.



DARKLON

THE

KNOCK!

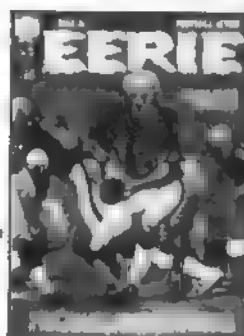


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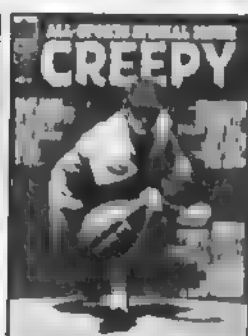
WARREN'S FINEST POSTERS!

Because this ad is in black and white you can't possibly appreciate the vivid colors of the magnificent posters. The football players engage in their deadly sport against a striking, blood-red backdrop. The robot pitcher tosses his explosive spheroid before a crisp green field. Sport's fans or just plain poster nuts will want these bright bills for your walls. On the straight Sci-Fi Horror side, we offer two masterpieces by Kelly & Enrich. The lumbering mechanical man is so real you'll have to bolt it to the wall. Then our comely heroine reaches out, tempting you to accept her hand. Can anyone refuse her? We think not! All four can be yours!

4 Cover Posters In Full Color!



EERIE #79
FULL COLOR 28"x20"
#2982 \$2.00



CREEPY #84
FULL COLOR 28"x20"
#2981 \$2.00



CREEPY #72
FULL COLOR 28"x20"
#2976/\$2.00



VAMPIRELLA #52
FULL COLOR 28"x20"
#2977/\$2.00

PLANET OF THE APES HOME MOVIES

PLANET OF THE APES WITH CHARLTON HESTON

An astronaut crash-lands on an unknown planet which is populated by male animalistic humans and a Master race of weapons-wielding Apes. Our hero is captured by these apes, he then escapes and heads for the Forbidden City. To find a big surprise! In Super 8 mm B&W First of Ape series #22053 \$9.95

BENEATH THE PLANET OF THE APES

More astronauts from Earth continue to land on the 'Ape Planet' and are befriended by Chimp-scientists, Cornelius and Zira. They journey to the Forbidden Zone and discover a warlike race of horrifying mutants. Humans, mutants and apes clash in battle for atomic war-heads in COLOR film only #22071 \$19.95

ESCAPE FROM THE PLANET OF THE APES

Cornelius and Zira locate an operating spaceship escape atomic destruction of the Ape World. They travel through the same time warp that stranded the astronauts and the two apes find themselves on a hostile modern Earth! Your choice of BLACK and WHITE #22055 \$9.95 Also in COLOR film #22072 \$19.95

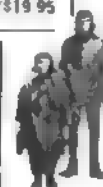
CONQUEST OF THE PLANET OF THE APES

Cornelius and Zira's son, Caesar, is raised by a kindly circus owner who knows his origin. He leads an insurrection against the ape-slaves' human owners. Los Angeles is destroyed in battle. SUPER 8 BLACK & WHITE #22056 \$9.95 COLOR #22073 \$19.95

BATTLE FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES

Caesar becomes a benevolent leader. Curiosity prompts him to search for the Forbidden City for tapes of his parents. Much to his dismay he is discovered by the mutants who attack the apes' city and a gorilla insurrection. Complete the series with this fine movie B&W #22057/\$9.95 or COLOR #22074/\$19.95

ALL SUPER 8 MM FILMS!



MONSTER BRIEFS IN COLOR! THE BEST DRESSED FIEND FROM SHIRTS TO SHORTS!



#2738-S, SIZE 28-32 \$4.00
#2738-M, SIZE 34-36 \$4.00
#2738-L, SIZE 38-42 \$4.00



#2739-S, SIZE 28-32 \$4.00
#2739-M, SIZE 34-36 \$4.00
#2739-L, SIZE 38-42 \$4.00



#2740-S, SIZE 28-32 \$4.00
#2740-M, SIZE 34-36 \$4.00
#2740-L, SIZE 38-42 \$4.00



#2741-S, SIZE 28-32 \$4.00
#2741-M, SIZE 34-36 \$4.00
#2741-L, SIZE 38-42 \$4.00



#2742-S, SIZE 28-32 \$4.00
#2742-M, SIZE 34-36 \$4.00
#2742-L, SIZE 38-42 \$4.00



#2743-S, SIZE 28-32 \$4.00
#2743-M, SIZE 34-36 \$4.00
#2743-L, SIZE 38-42 \$4.00

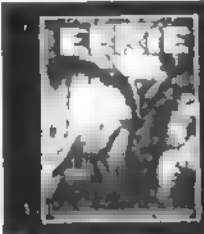
WE'LL BE BRIEF. YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO BE CAUGHT SHORT, SO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS EXCITING OFFER. THE BEST COVERS FROM CREEPY, EERIE AND FAMOUS MONSTERS ARE REPRODUCED IN FULL COLOR ON THE FRONTS OF THESE 100% STRETCHABLE NYLON BIKINI BRIEFS. THEY WILL COMPLETE YOUR WARDROBE! A FASHIONABLE MONSTER WOULDN'T BE CAUGHT DEAD WITHOUT THEM. PLEASE BE VERY SURE YOU ORDER THE CORRECT SIZE.

PRESENTING THE 1976 WARREN AWARDS

BEST COVER OF THE YEAR 1976

RICH CORBEN

His storytelling ability is unique. His color style is spectacular. His draftsmanship is well, it's pure Corben! And in 1976 he exercised his special wizardry in creating for Warren an unusual cover the best cover art in 1976!



Best Cover of 1976: Rich Corben's fine EERIE #77!

BEST ALL AROUND WRITER

BILL DuBAY

Since retiring as editor at the end of 1975, Bill DuBay has had more time to devote himself to writing with exciting results. Readers loved the entertaining and often grisly tales of terror that earned him this 1976 award!



Best All Around Writer: The moods of Bill DuBay!

BEST COVER ARTIST

KEN KELLY

Ken, who created the best covers in 1975, had done it again! It's '76, and that old mastery is still there. Check out the covers reproduced below just three examples of the many paintings that prove Ken's excellence! Kelly's tops!



Award Winning Covers: CREEPY #84, 81 and EERIE #79!

BEST STORY OF THE YEAR 1976

BRUCE JONES

Readers loved 'In Deep!' Letters, even phone calls poured in praising it. Readers told us it was a "great story" ... and some called it "literature." Something about it appealed to everyone and won Bruce this 1976 award!



1976's Best Story: Jones's spectacular "In Deep!"

Last year's Warren Awards promised a '76 "full of excitement and change" and predicted some dramatic occurrences during that year. And still, 1976 was better than expected.

For CREEPY, '76 was the year of the special issue. For EERIE, it meant the beginning of some very special series. For VAMPIRELLA, it heralded the return of Jose Gonzalez as the VAMPI series' regular illustrator... plus a book-length summer special!

It was a great year for judging Warren books by their really spectacular covers.

Rich Corben contributed his talent, creating one of the year's most memor-

able award winning covers!

Riotous Ken Kelly paintings... monsters, demons, robots, maidens-in-distress, even sports-playing grotesqueries... plastered the newsstands.

Sanjulian put in a brief appearance. And Enrich created some of the most fetching VAMPIRELLA covers to date.

Between the magazines' phenomenal covers there was even more excitement.

Work by Warren regulars Jose Ortiz, Gonzalo Mayo, Esteban Maroto, Ramon Torrents, Paul Neary, John Severin, Alex Toth and Leopold Sanchez kept the pages of the magazines in top form.

And there were some real surprises

Witness the return of Russ Heath the appearance of Carmine Infantino inked by greats like Bernie Wrightson, John Severin, Walt Simonson, Dick Giordano and Al Milgrom... Leo Duranona's first and much-lauded Warren appearance. And, as if all that wasn't enough, Al Williamson returned in a spectacular story, heralding things to come in '77.

And Jim Starlin has created the monumental "Darklord!" Last, but not least, Corben produced several color stories plus two initial segments of a Time Travel Trilogy that promises to be one of EERIE's most exciting series ever!

Since 1970, artists and writers have been receiving Warren Awards in appreciation for their outstanding contributions to the Warren graphic horror line. Past winners from CREEPY, EERIE and VAMPIRELLA have included outstanding talents like Frank Frazetta, Archie Goodwin, John Severin and Alex Toth . . . all considered among the most creative people in comics. This year's winners are selected from those whose work appeared in magazines dated 1976. Their contributions were of the highest standards and represent the best Warren has to offer.

BEST ALL AROUND ARTIST LEOPOLD SANCHEZ

Sanchez' art appeared in Warren magazines more frequently than ever in 1976 . . . to ever increasing reader adulation. Fans who liked his line work raved over his facility with tone . . . in stories which make him the Best All Around Artist!



Award Winning Sanchez Art from CREEPY and EERIE

SPECIAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE JOSE GONZALEZ

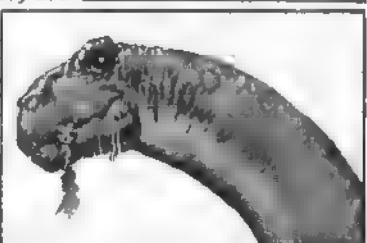
"Jose Gonzalez has returned!" cheered thousands of fans, delighted by Gonzalez resumption of the VAMPIRELLA series. This award is Warren's way of saying thank you for all the time and fruitful effort he has invested in VAMPIRELLA!



Special Award: Gonzalez' VAMPIRELLA Is A Winner!

BEST ART IN THE YEAR 1976 RICH CORBEN

Rich's complex worlds reflect our own . . . but with unique distortions that make our own universe seem flat by comparison. In 1976 Rich gave us Part One of a Time Travel Trilogy . . . a painstaking visual creation . . . and best story art.

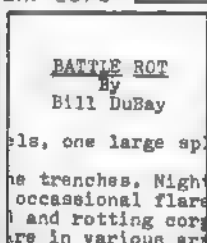


Best Art: Rich Corben's "Within You, Without You"

RENAISSANCE MAN SPECIAL AWARD 1976

BILL DuBAY

Artist - writer - designer - editor - colorist - creator Bill DuBay can do anything . . . and to hear him tell it he can do it better than anybody else. And who are we to dispute a record like the above? To Dube . . . Renaissance Man: 1976!



Bill DuBay: The Man Who Can Do Anything Award!

But Warren is a comics company and comics means stories . . . hopefully, great stories.

1976 brought you some of the best. Stories by Bill DuBay, Gerry Boudreau, Budd Lewis, Jim Stenstrom and Roger McKenzie, who, after an initial appearance in '75, has become one of Warren's most prolific writers, drew reader adulation.

Returning writer Nick Cuti is back after several years absence. And Bruce Jones now appears regularly with his own special brand of one-hundred proof horror!

Guest appearances by Cary Bates, Steve Englehart and David Michelinie,

all helped make '76 a very good year. 1976 has been interesting . . . and filled with surprises. But '77 promises to be even better.

Reader favorite Len Wein has promised several guest appearances, and his "Toast To No Man's Memory" is already scheduled for Summer 1977.

Another extra special Corben cover . . . with interior just as phenomenal . . . will hit the stands this summer as well!

CREEPY will give you more specials. More monsters. More sports. A Christmas special. Science-fiction. And, by special reader demand . . . an issue devoted to war!

EERIE has already had one special issue in '77. Remember the giant-girl on the Empire State Building? Hopefully, '77 will bring another just as exotic.

VAMPIRELLA's summer issue will feature another, longer book length VAMPIRE epic by Mayo and Boudreau, the team that drew rave reviews in '76. And September will bring a special mystery issue of VAMPIRELLA. What's the mystery? You'll find out later in '77.

Just keep your eye on Warren in '77. Watch for a special announcement one that will both stun and delight you! And try and believe what you see!

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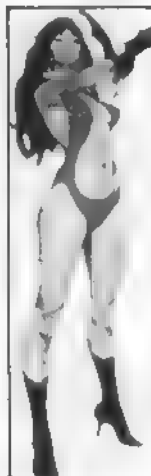
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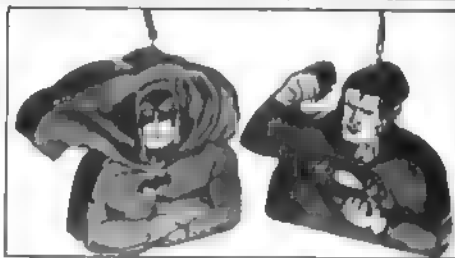


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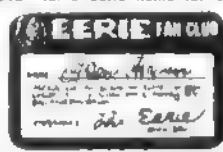


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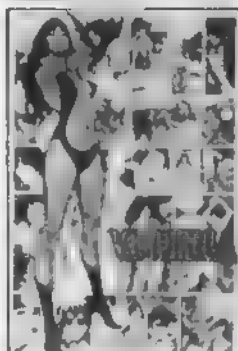
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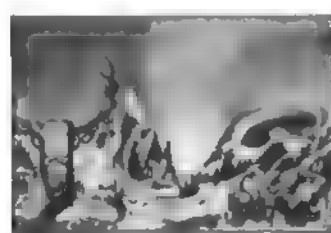
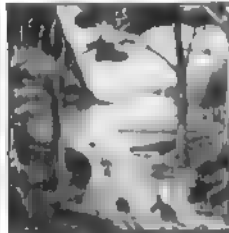
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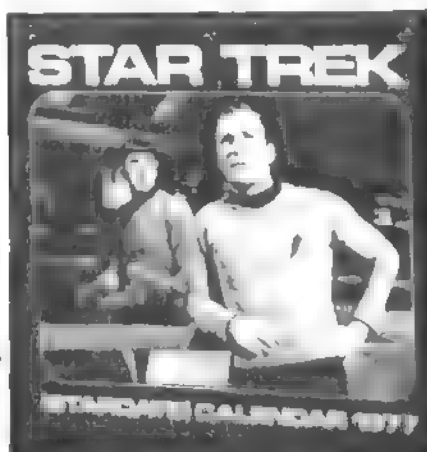
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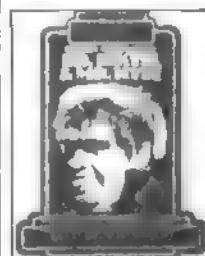
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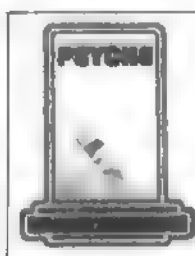
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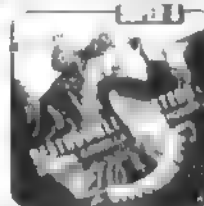
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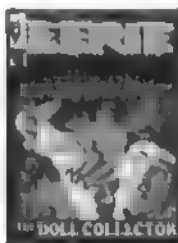
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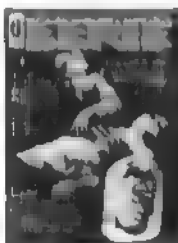
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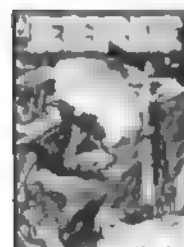
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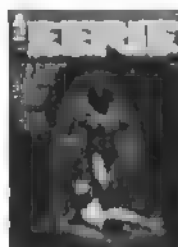
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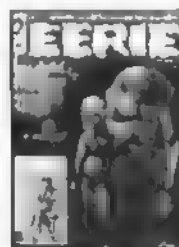
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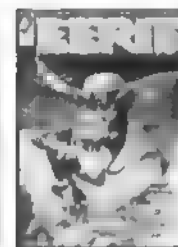
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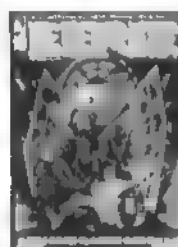
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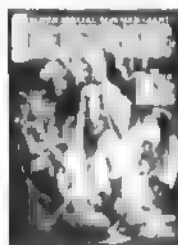
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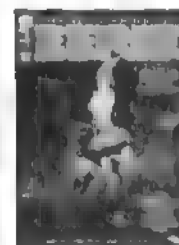
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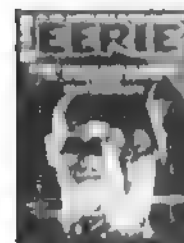
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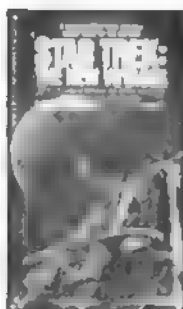


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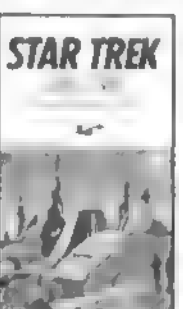
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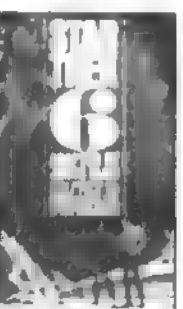
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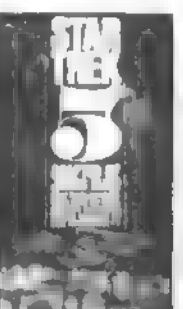
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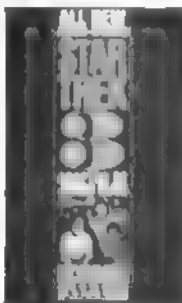
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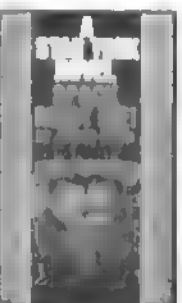
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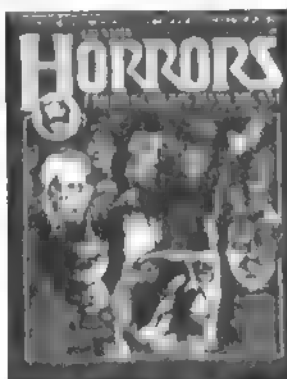
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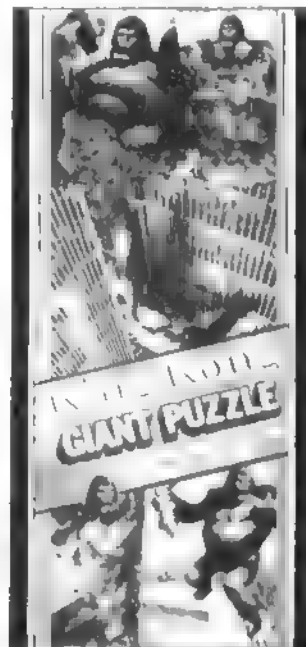
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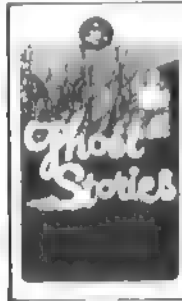
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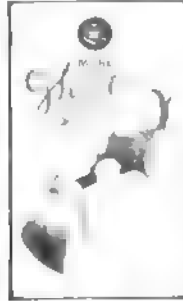
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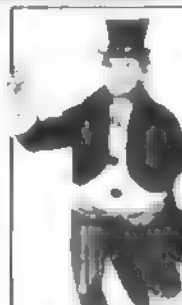
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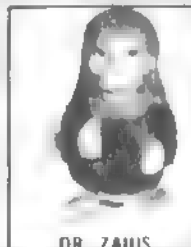
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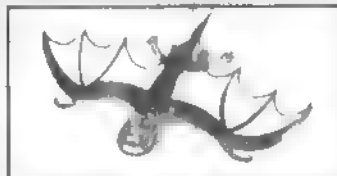
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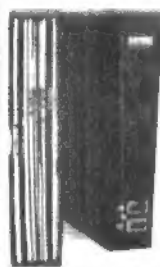
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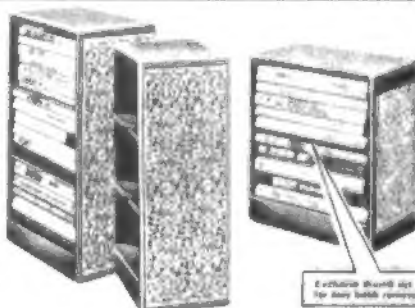
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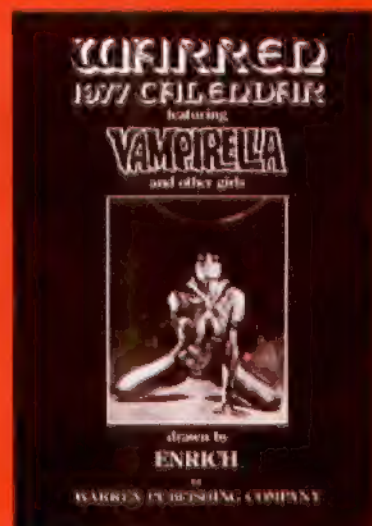
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